DORIA AND McDONOUGH TO TEACH EAGLETON FELLOWS SEMINAR

Joe Doria, Assemblyman and Mayor of Bayonne, will join Pete McDonough, consultant and former communications director for Governor Whitman, to teach the 2003-2004 seminar for Eagleton Fellows. This year-long course, which meets on alternate Fridays, examines the challenges, frustrations and – most of all – realities of politics to show how politics, public policy and governance operate and interact.

The 14 Eagleton Fellows selected for the new year come from a wide variety of graduate programs including art history; communication, information and library studies; ecology and evolution; food science; geography; law; organization management; political science; public administration; public policy; and sociology.

Doria, who holds an Ed.D from Columbia University Teacher’s College, began his career as a high school teacher and has also taught at St. Peter’s College. McDonough, who had been a guest lecturer in many classes before teaching this year, also served as executive director of the State Assembly minority, chief of staff to the late Congressman Dean Gallo, and manager for many political campaigns.

This past year, McDonough taught the Eagleton Seminar with Michael Catania (Eagleton Fellow ‘74) and included sessions with former Clinton Press Secretary Mike McCurry and EPA Administrator and former Governor Christine Todd Whitman. Catania, who had been directing the New Jersey office of the Nature Conservancy, will be devoting his attention this year to starting a new statewide conservation community trust. * * *

EAGLETON STUDIES, CONVENES YOUNG ELECTED LEADERS

TODAY’S YOUNG OFFICEHOLDERS COULD BE TOMORROW’S TOP OFFICIALS; RIGHT NOW THEY FACE SPECIAL CHALLENGES IN JUGGLING POLITICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES.

Twelve of the nineteen 20th-century Presidents of the United States held their first elective offices at age 35 or younger. So did half of today’s U.S. senators, members of the House of Representatives, and governors. If this pattern continues, many of today’s young elected officials will become tomorrow’s top leaders.

But who are the young people choosing to run for office today? Why did they do it, and what has been their experience? Do their fledgling careers offer lessons that might help make politics more interesting to other young people?

To address these and other questions, Eagleton received a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to initiate the Young Elected Leaders Project. During 2002, the Institute conducted a nationwide search that identified 814 people under the age of 35 who currently serve as members of Congress, statewide elected executives, state legislators, and mayors or council members in cities with populations of at least 30,000. A questionnaire was completed by 380 of the young elected leaders (YELs), and 47 of them attended a mid-May invitational conference at Eagleton.

The findings suggest that YELs have much in common with their older peers. The vast majority of YELs are men (85%). Fifty percent of survey respondents are Democrats and 41 percent are Republicans. Most are Caucasian (81%) and Christian (95%). As a group, they are wealthier than the general population; 51 percent have annual family incomes of $50,000 - $100,000, and 22 percent have family incomes in excess of $100,000. They are highly educated, with 97 percent having attended college. Almost three-

continued on page 6
People at Eagleton

Susan Carroll, senior scholar at CAWP, has published a new edited volume, Women and Politics New Questions, New Directions (Oxford University Press, 2003). The book, which originated from a CAWP conference, presents a research agenda developed by leading scholars of American politics, suggesting directions that could fruitfully shape the study of women and American politics in the early twenty-first century. It includes useful reviews of existing research about various aspects of women’s political participation, but the primary focus is on important research questions that pose a challenge for the next generation of scholars. Topics include: political recruitment, campaign strategy, money, political leadership, parties and women’s organizations, the gender gap in voting and public opinion, media, women of color, and participation outside of conventional electoral politics.

Angela Garretson, project coordinator for Newark Student Voices, was highlighted in a June 17 “Jersey’s Helping Hands” feature in the Newark Star-Ledger. Newark Student Voices, part of Eagleton’s Civic Engagement and Political Participation Program, encourages young people to be informed and engaged in their communities. The article focused on Garretson’s work on the program and her participation in Leadership Newark, a two-year fellowship and professional development program for young leaders in the city.

Republic on Trial: The Case for Representative Democracy, by Professor Alan Rosenthal and colleagues Burdett A. Loomis, Eagleton Visiting Professor John R. Hibbing, and Karl T. Kurtz, has won high praise since its 2002 publication. Robert D. Garton, president pro tempore of the Indiana State Senate, said it was “the best book on representative democracy I have read and should be a required text in any political science curriculum offered by institutions of higher education.” Alan Ehrenhalt, editor of Governing magazine, lauded Rosenthal as one of only a very few scholars able to bridge the gap between political science and journalism.

Susan Sherr, director of Eagleton’s Civic Engagement and Political Participation Program, has received a grant from the Center for Information and Research in Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) to study whether there are news formats that would be more engaging and informative for young adults than those available currently. The grant will involve conducting focus groups with young people, analyzing youth-oriented news, and carrying out experiments to determine what news formats might increase learning and enjoyment among 18-24 year-olds. Results from the study will be available next summer.

Christine Sierra, an associate professor of political science at the University of New Mexico, will be visiting professor at CAWP during the fall 2003 term. Sierra will be working on a Ford Foundation-funded project with faculty members from several institutions studying women of color in politics. She will also advise the Center on its work with Eleccion Latina, a project of the Hispanic Bar Association that aims to elect more Latinas to all levels of office. Sierra’s research has focused on Mexican American political activism on immigration policy, Hispanic politics in New Mexico, and the politics of Chicana and Latina women in the United States.

* * *

Eleccion Latina Highlights Need for Hispanic Women’s Political Participation

Prominent Latinas from around the country gathered at CAWP on March 27 for a two-part, two day meeting to discuss Latina political participation. The conference began with a public forum featuring Elmy Bermejo, President, Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)-California; Griselle Camacho-Pagan, Latinas United for Political Equality (LUPE)-New Jersey; and Christine Sierra, associate professor of political science at the University of New Mexico. They addressed an audience of professional and academic women and students about the status of Latinas in electoral politics, as well as Latina political behavior.

The following day, meeting participants gathered to continue the dialogue begun the previous evening. They examined what they believed were the most formidable challenges to Latinas’ political participation, including: money; the need for campaign experience and acquisition of campaign skills, particularly in the technical aspects of campaigning; perceptions of electoral politics by Latinas; lack of a pipeline; and the lack of sponsorship/role models.

Some of the actions proposed at the meeting were: formation of a Latina political action committee; surveying Latinas in organizations to determine their levels of political activity and potential interest in further involvement; convening a conference to make connections between community activism and politics; and expanding the Eleccion Latina website, which is housed on the CAWP site. * * *
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In his inaugural address at Rutgers this past April and in public statements since then, President Richard L. McCormick has emphasized the necessary and valuable interdependence between the State of New Jersey and Rutgers, the state’s premier public research university. For President McCormick, the University is already “part of the fabric of New Jersey,” contributing “deeply to the betterment of our state.” Understanding that success depends on recognizing the central connection between the state university and the state to which it belongs, he stresses that the “relationship between Rutgers and New Jersey must become far deeper and more extensive than it is today, and we at Rutgers must bear the largest share of responsibility for making it so.”

At the Eagleton Institute of Politics, we enthusiastically accept this challenge to build on our long history of service and engagement with the state of New Jersey, its political practitioners and governmental institutions. Eagleton faculty and staff serve on state boards and advisory groups, including such sensitive and critical positions as tiebreaker for the congressional redistricting process after the 2000 census (Alan Rosenthal), and the current chairs of the Capital City Redevelopment Corporation (Ingrid Reed) and the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission (John Weingart). Reed has also been appointed to the New Jersey State Plan Committee for the Help America Vote Act.

The Institute continues, as it has from its earliest days, to award graduate fellowships and educate students who go on to careers in Trenton and across the state in pursuit of their interests in politics and policymaking, government relations and public service. In addition, today the Institute offers the Undergraduate Associates Program; summer institutes for undergraduate women from across the state; and the new Raimondo Legislative Fellowship Program which places graduate students in legislative offices for an intensive, up-close educational experience.

The Institute’s Civic Engagement and Political Participation program is entering its third year of work with Newark high schools. The “Student Voices” project, which reaches high school students throughout the city, combines studies of community issues with occasions to interact with political candidates and public officials. Eagleton is committed to continuing these worthy efforts at the same time we look forward to creating additional opportunities for young people to learn about public life and to link them in meaningful ways with government and political leaders.

The Institute has also been working with the state on a number of research and public service initiatives. Eagleton’s Center for Public Interest Polling has been retained by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to help the state to improve its services for New Jersey drivers. As mandated by the recently enacted Motor Vehicle Security and Customer Service Act, the results of the study of the public’s view of motor vehicle agencies will inform policymakers and help to form the foundation for improvements to the services provided at motor vehicle agencies. In addition, the respected, long-standing Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll continues to regularly inform policymakers about opinions held by the state’s citizens on a wide array of public issues.

In another program area, Eagleton’s Electronic Government Project recently has been awarded grants by the New Jersey Office of Information Technology to assist in improving and expanding the state’s government Web sites. The project includes an evaluation of each state department’s site for potential additional features and services, with particular emphasis on facilitating public access and usability. For the election season, the Electronic Government Project and Eagleton’s New Jersey Project are working in partnership with Leadership New Jersey to develop a Web site that will monitor the 2003 New Jersey legislative campaign to make available candidate and district profiles, briefing papers on major issues, and candidates’ positions on key issues. The Eagleton New Jersey Project continues to be in the center of research and service efforts aimed at electoral reform. Its efforts are directed both at improving campaigns in New Jersey and at developing models for replication nationally.

When he introduced Governor McGreevey to an audience at Eagleton on March 26th, President McCormick described the Institute as, “truly a jewel in Rutgers University’s crown – one of our University’s best instruments for serving the people of New Jersey and advancing public life in our state.” We accept this compliment as our standard for the future.
Amy Schapiro, author of Millicent Fenwick: Her Way, listens as Roger Bodman, principal, Hodes Shaw Bodman Gluck, tells about his experiences working for Congresswoman Fenwick, first as her driver and later as her district office manager.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and her daughter are shown in an image from photojournalist Melina Mara’s exhibit, Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate. Displayed at the Smithsonian Institution’s Arts and Industries Building through September 7, the exhibit is part of a collaboration with CAWP, veteran journalist Helen Thomas, and the Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, chair of the New Jersey State Democratic Party, discussed her political career with the 2003 class of Eagleton Undergraduate Associates in a session that also included Board of Public Utilities Commissioner Carol Murphy.

Institute director Ruth B. Mandel shared the platform in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda with Secretary of State Colin Powell, the keynote speaker at the 2003 National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance. Mandel offered remarks at the April 30 program in her capacity as vice chair of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Her remarks are available on www.eagleton.rutgers.edu.
New Jersey's Chief Justice, Deborah Poritz spoke of the importance of public service at year-end ceremonies for the Eagleton Fellows and Raimondo Fellows. Poritz noted that, "We need well-trained, thoughtful people in public life; we need an ethic of service. You need the rewards that come from serving the public and the joy that comes from trying to make a difference and, occasionally, finding that you have." Her full remarks can be viewed on the Eagleton web site at www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/News-Research/PoritzRemarks.html.

Candy Straight, president of WISH List, and the Republican nominee for Essex County Executive in 2002 responds to a comment during her talk at Eagleton entitled “What I Learned on the Campaign Trail.”

Calvin Trillin, noted writer and humorist, addresses a crowd at Eagleton. No photo can convey the delighted response to Trillin’s political and social commentary laced with deadpan humor.

Former New Jersey Governor and EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman talked with the 2003 class of Eagleton Fellows for two hours, during which she discussed her challenges and accomplishments at EPA. Comparing her job there with being governor, she noted that virtually every issue in Washington involves intense partisan debate and strategizing to a far greater extent than she found in Trenton. The session took place shortly before Whitman announced that she was stepping down as EPA Administrator.
RESEARCHERS FIND DIFFERENCES IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACROSS GENERATIONS: 
MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE 15-25 ARE DISENGAGED FROM CIVIC LIFE, BUT EDUCATION MIGHT PIQUE THEIR INTEREST

A team of researchers including Cliff Zulin, professor of public policy and director of the Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll, and Krista Jenkins of Eagleton’s Center for Public Interest Polling, recently completed a study entitled The Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Generational Portrait.

The study analyzes two comprehensive surveys of the nation’s civic and political behavior — from voting to volunteering — and chronicles differences among four generations (“DotNets”, “Generation X”, “Baby Boomers”, and “Matures”).

Some highlights:

• Young people are much more likely to support government action and are just as engaged in apolitical civic activities as are older generations, but are less likely to trust others and participate in electoral politics.

• “Generation DotNet” (15-25 year-olds) has a strong and distinct generational identity, while joining older citizens in using consumer activism as a vehicle for expressing their political and policy views.

• Younger Americans don’t share older generations’ views about the responsibilities of citizenship, but they do say that civic education makes a big difference in fueling their interest in public affairs.

The researchers have also released A Guide to the Index of Civic and Political Engagement, an easy-to-use and flexible tool for gathering data on levels of civic and political engagement within a community or a program.

Joining Zulin and Jenkins on the project team were Molly Andolina of DePaul University and Scott Keeter of George Mason University and the Pew Research Center. Their work was funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and presented in collaboration with CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement).

Findings from the project are available online; a link is available from www.eagleton.rutgers.edu. * * *

YOUNG ELECTED LEADERS (CONTINUED)

quarters chose one of five college majors: political science, business, history, economics, or communications. They often come from political families; a substantial number (29%) say that at least one relative has held public office, and close to three-quarters say that politics was discussed in their families when they were growing up. Like elected officials of any age, they are doers and joiners, active in their communities.

The Conference

The 47 YELs who gathered at Eagleton came from 29 states and the District of Columbia. They met to exchange ideas with one another and help Institute researchers understand why some young people opt for intense political engagement when so many of their peers are uninvolved and disaffected. While much of the conference time was reserved for discussions among the YELs, the program also included a roundtable discussion with three of the ten under-35 members of Congress — Reps. Artur Davis (D-AL), Mike Ferguson (R-NJ) and Adam Putnam (R-FL).

Conference participants identified conflicts between public and private life as especially intense for them because they are more likely to be single than their older colleagues, and many have young families. Whether single and dealing with the pressures of a social life lived in the public eye, or married and trying to devote adequate time to a family while remaining responsive to constituents, they felt pressured and torn by their multiple responsibilities. In addition, many YELs felt concerned about devoting sufficient attention to building a non-political career because of the time commitments of their offices and the potential for clashes between their political work and their budding careers.

This first-ever study and conference of young elected officials provided provocative information while raising many questions. The Institute will be seeking additional support to follow the careers of young leaders and would welcome conversations with other potential funders. * * *

Learn more about young elected leaders, past and present. See which political leaders began their political careers by age 35. Find out who today’s young elected leaders are, what makes them run for office, and what they think about key issues. It’s all online at www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/YELP/YELPReports.html
EAGLETON FOCUSES ON THE 2003 “ONLY IN NEW JERSEY” ELECTION

For most of the country, 2003 is a year without significant elections, but in New Jersey we will choose all 120 members of the state legislature as well as many county and municipal officials. The legislative races will determine which party or parties will have a majority in the Assembly and Senate which, in turn, will have a major impact on the laws and budgets that will be enacted during the next two years. Nevertheless, even within the Garden State, elections without statewide candidates often receive minimal public attention. Voter turnout in legislative elections typically is under 33%, in comparison to presidential years, when it is close to 70%.

Working in partnership with Leadership New Jersey, Eagleton has established a website — accessible from the Eagleton site (www.eagleton.rutgers.edu) — with information about the candidates in each of the state’s 40 legislative districts. One feature of the site enables users to locate their district simply by typing in their addresses. It also provides contact information for all candidates as well as links to their campaign websites if they have established them.

Information will be added to the website throughout the fall. Included will be basic discussions of several major policy issues likely to be confronted by the legislature elected this November. In addition to these impartial statements, each candidate will be given opportunities to add their positions on these issues.

The goal of this project, which is supported in part by a grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and also includes participation by Eagleton’s Civic Education Consortium, is not only to make this information readily available to voters, but also to give high school social studies teachers and students an easily available entry point for pursuing the interesting lessons about civics and democracy that can be found in “off-year” elections. Suggested exercises both in and outside the classroom, as well as possible topics for student papers will also be posted.

Leadership New Jersey (LNJ), established in 1987, brings together a select group of leaders from the nonprofit, government and profit-making sectors for a series of programs each year. The LNJ Class of 2002 is working with Eagleton on all aspects of the legislative website project. The major issues selected for focus on the site are being determined by a survey of all 800 of alumni of the program. For more information on LNJ, go to www.leadershipnj.org.

For additional information on the NJ Voter Info website, contact Don Linky at dlinky@rci.rutgers.edu.

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JUNE PRIMARY RESULTS EXPLORED AT “MORNING AFTER” PROGRAM

Twelve hours after the polls closed on Primary Day, a panel (shown at right) moderated by Institute associate director John Weingart and made up of Tom Byrne, investment manager and former chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee; Barbara Fitzgerald reporter for The New York Times; Dale Florio, president of Princeton Public Affairs Group and Somerset County Republican chair; and Tom Barlis, staff writer for the Atlantic City Press led a public discussion on the election results and their implications for the November elections, the next legislative session and beyond. Among the other participants were former Governor Jim Florio and several former members of the legislature, including Senator Jack Ewing and Assemblywoman Greta Kiernan.

Eagleton’s Morning After programs are open to the public. The session after this year’s general election will be on Wednesday, November 5th, with a light breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the program and discussion from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Those who wish to attend should RSVP to (732) 932-9384 ext. 331. * * *
The Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how contemporary political systems work, how they change, and how they might work better. Eagleton's faculty, centers and programs specialize in the study of: state legislatures; public opinion polling and survey research; women's participation in politics; minority and immigrant political behavior; campaigns, elections and political parties; civic education and political engagement; young elected leaders; electronic democracy; and New Jersey politics.

CAWP ONCE AGAIN CONVENES NEWLY ELECTED WOMEN LEGISLATORS-
WHITE HOUSE POLICY BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAM

In November 2003, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) will host its third Forum for Newly Elected Women State Legislators at the historic Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. All 299 women who have entered legislatures since 2001 are invited to this year's Forum, along with a dynamic group of veteran women lawmakers who will serve as speakers and mentors. The Forum's program will be a mix of practical information about process and policies, opportunities to build connections with colleagues from other states, and inspiration delivered by experienced women legislators and prominent national leaders. Forum participants will attend a policy briefing hosted by the White House on Friday afternoon, November 21st followed by a reception.

For additional information about the Forum, contact Kathleen Casey (kcasey@rci.rutgers.edu). * * *

ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

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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: Kathleen Casey, Michael Hagen, Michelle Horgan, Chris Lenart, Don Linky, Ruth B. Mandel, Ingrid Reed, and John Weingart.

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