



STUDENT WORKERS SPEARHEAD YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAM, ADVANCE NEW INITIATIVES

A vibrant group of Rutgers students has devised creative ways to engage young people in politics as part of Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program (YPPP). Between summer 2007 and May 2008, a total of ten YPPP interns worked on civic engagement projects involving high school students, college students, and young elected leaders. The media took notice of the high level of student-led political activity at Rutgers, with students featured on the *Today* show and on MTV's *Choose or Lose*, an article in *The Star-Ledger*, and a laudatory editorial in *The Home News Tribune*.

The centerpiece of YPPP's campus activities is RUVoting, an Eagleton-based nonpartisan initiative that works with campus groups to engage students during national, state, and local elections. In anticipation of New Jersey's November state legislative

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Research associate Elizabeth Matto, who heads Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program, graduate student Matt Smolsel, and student interns joined high school students from New Brunswick and Perth Amboy gathered at Eagleton for the first RU Ready conference.

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GRANT HELPS LAUNCH EAGLETON PROGRAM ON IMMIGRATION AND DEMOCRACY

The issue of immigration will draw new attention as a result of a new grant to Eagleton. The Community Foundation of New Jersey support helps the growing Eagleton Program on Immigration and Democracy examine the need and potential for a research, public policy and education center at Rutgers devoted to the impact and implications of immigration on American society, government and institutions.

Over the past two years, Eagleton has been convening immigration schol-



Former Mayor of Indianapolis Bart Peterson gave the keynote address at the symposium on "Local Government and Immigrant Integration: Challenges and Opportunities." The event was co-sponsored by the American Conference on Diversity, the Hispanic Directors Association, the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

ars for informal monthly conversations; participants represent numerous fields, including law, sociology, political science, economics, history, and labor studies. The Institute has also sponsored a series of public education programs. This spring, a forum on "Local Government and Immigrant Integration: Challenges and Opportunities" in April was followed by a June panel on "State Government and Immigrant Integration." Experts from Indiana, Illinois, Maryland and New York compared perspectives with New Jersey mayors and community organization representatives, as well as faculty members.

At the same time, Rutgers has been working closely with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policy, which is due to report findings to Governor Corzine in December. The panel, chaired by N.J. Public Advocate Ron Chen, includes Janice Fine, a professor at the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations. Fine, in particular, has been help-

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The academic year began with the election on my mind. The academic year ended with the election on my mind. In this Agony and Ecstasy election year, it was hard to think about anything else. But think we did. And act we did.

A few years ago, headlines decried young people's alienation from the political system. Now, as the *Daily Show's* Jon Stewart might phrase it, not so much. In 2008, young people have turned up and turned out in places where they were scarce in years past, whether canvassing and caucusing for candidates, lobbying for increased aid to education, or expressing their political views in the media.

Here at Eagleton, we're witnessing the same phenomenon. Applications for CAWP's NEW Leadership program for college women rose from the typical 50 to more than 75. The Eagleton Fellowship programs, designed for graduate students who want to link their studies to the practice of politics, drew four times as many applicants as available slots, coming from a wide range of programs on all three Rutgers campuses. And, as you'll see throughout this newsletter, young people all around us are engaging with the political system – whether encouraging fellow Rutgers students to register and vote, teaching students at area high schools about the political system, signing up for my seminar about “A Woman for President?” or viewing a documentary made by an 18-year-old about getting young people involved in politics.

The resurgence of interest in politics may stem from the urgency of the issues. War, climate change, a faltering economy, food shortages, immigration and many other pressing concerns grab the attention of young people; they see the impact of political matters on their daily lives every time they fill their gas tanks or pay their rising tuition bills. What's more, media channels such as *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report* speak to them, and outlets like YouTube and blogs allow them to voice their own views.

The hope we can muster in a time of so many daunting challenges arises from the creativity, energy, determination and technological savvy with which young people are stepping up. If they put their hearts and minds into politics, who knows what seemingly insurmountable problems they might solve?



Ruth B. Mandel

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IMMIGRATION (continued)

ing to match Rutgers academic expertise with the research needs of the panel. In addition, key staffing assistance to the panel has come from Josh Appelbaum, an Eagleton Fellow and master's in public policy student at Rutgers' Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

The study supported in part by the Community Foundation grant is being conducted by Nicholas V. Montalto, who has worked on issues related to immigration policy for more than 25 years. Working with Montalto on Eagleton's planning team for the immigration program area are Professor Fine, Institute associate director John Weingart, and Professor Jane Junn.

SHORT TAKES

The CAWP website is undergoing a complete overhaul and upgrade; the new look will be adapted for the Eagleton website shortly. With exclusive sponsorship from Altria, the CAWP site will sport an interactive map showing state-by-state information about elected women, as well as a new “Fast Facts” section. Information has been reorganized for easier exploration, and the site meets standards for access for the visually impaired. Be sure to visit www.cawp.rutgers.edu soon to take a look!

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The njvoterinfo.org website is a hit with voters – or, more accurately, it is many hits. Eagleton's public service site is designed to be helpful to New Jerseyans who want to be better informed voters. Organized by Don Linky, who oversees Eagleton's e-government efforts, and Ingrid Reed, director of the New Jersey Project, it provides information about registering and voting, with a locator for voters' legislative and congressional districts, information and profiles on candidates, and links to related sites. Most popular are voter registration information and an election calendar. The site has become the leading non-governmental New Jersey web source for nonpartisan voter and election information, and 182 other websites have added links to it. In the three months preceding the Super Tuesday New Jersey presidential primary, the site recorded more than 50,000 visits, peaking at just under 10,000 visits on February 4-5. In the period leading up to the November 2007 legislative elections, monthly usage exceeded 17,000 visits in October and 31,000 visits in November. Funding from Bristol Myers Squibb helped to launch the site, and the Kellogg Fund at the Community Foundation of New Jersey and the William Penn Foundation have provided continuing support.

EAGLETON FELLOWS AND UNDERGRADUATES MARK YEAR'S END

Twenty-four Eagleton Fellows completed their year at the Institute, marking the occasion with a closing ceremony keynoted by New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram, an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate from the class of 1992. University President Richard McCormick also offered his congratulations to the class. Student speakers at the event included Fellows David Dziengowski (J.D. Law, Rutgers-Camden), Kritee (Ph.D. Microbiology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences) and Sarah Kowal (Psy.D. Clinical Psychology, Graduate School of Applied Psychology).



Eagleton Fellows with Eagleton director Ruth B. Mandel (l.), senior administrative assistant Sarah Kozak and Eagleton associate director John Weingart (r.) Also pictured in the group are Professor Alan Rosenthal, Commissioner Joe Doria, and Pete McDonough, who taught the Fellows.

Senior and junior undergraduate associates also marked the year's end with a picnic; while the 26 seniors in the program have graduated, 16 rising seniors will continue as UA's in 2008-09, joined by a new class to be selected in the fall.



Institute director Ruth B. Mandel speaks to the undergraduates at their year-end picnic.

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INITIATIVE BRINGS CLIMATE CHANGE TO EAGLETON

What do philosophy and geoengineering have to do with one another, and how do they fit into an institute of politics? Martin Bunzl knows. The professor of philosophy has found a new home at Eagleton as director of the Initiative on Climate and Social Policy (CSP), which is marshalling the resources of Rutgers University in the social sciences to address the challenges posed by global warming, greenhouse gasses and the reduction of carbon emissions.

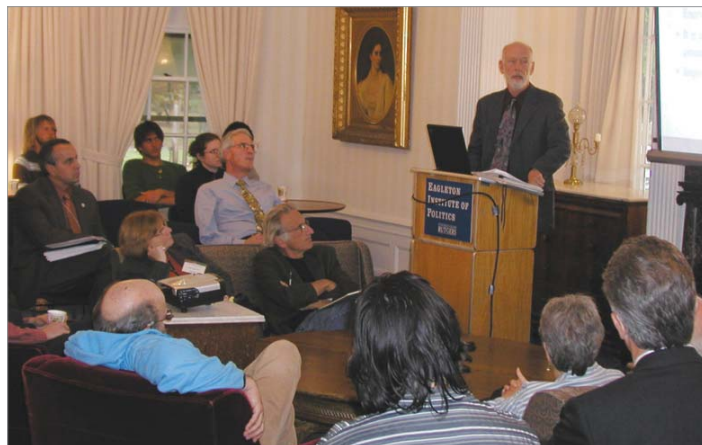
CSP's mission is to conduct research,

education and public service to better understand how both state and national political institutions can respond to these challenges. Bunzl, the driving force behind it, is caught up in projects involving geoengineering – and much more.

His article on ethics and geoengineering is forthcoming in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. He is co-principal investigator on a three-year National Science Foundation geoengineering grant coordinating social policy aspects. He has organized two

one-day meetings on geoengineering and social policy at Eagleton and is an invited participant in a meeting on ethics and geoengineering at the Chicago Humanities Festival, as well as another on international law and geoengineering at the Council on Foreign Relations.

But that's only one facet of CSP's work. Bunzl organized a colloquium series at Eagleton on climate change, social policy and politics. He is building a network of academics working on carbon import duties and GATT conflicts, and another addressing the role of behavioral economics in messaging. He has set up a cooperative relationship with ChinaDialogue in London and Beijing to sponsor people in China writing on climate change. And he has secured an initial grant of \$50,000 from PSE&G, with whom he has negotiated a partnership agreement to form experimental panels of customers, using actual utility readings to measure outcomes.



Mike Aucott of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection spoke at one of a series of Climate Change Colloquiums chaired by Martin Bunzl, director of the Rutgers Initiative on Climate and Social Policy (www.csp.rutgers.edu), which is based at Eagleton.

EVENTS AT EAGLETON



Former Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, Rutgers President Richard McCormick, and Institute director Ruth B. Mandel arrived at the day-long program on New Jersey Governors and the State Supreme Court convened by the Rutgers Program on the Governor. Governor Corzine brought greetings, and speakers and panelists included former Governors Brendan T. Byrne and James J. Florio, former Chief Justices James R. Zazzali and Poritz, and retired Associate Justices Daniel J. O’Hern, Gary S. Stein, Robert L. Clifford, Stewart G. Pollock and Peter G. Verniero, along with numerous retired judges and members of current and past gubernatorial administrations.



CAWP director Debbie Walsh welcomed the 2007 holder of the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women’s Political Leadership, PBS journalist Gwen Ifill, who spoke in September after an earlier visit was postponed because of illness. Her topic was *Politics, Policy and Reality: What’s Really Going On in Washington*.



Best-selling author and NBC presidential historian Michael Beschloss signs his book, *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America*, for Ira Lomench before Beschloss’ lecture.



Eagleton’s senior undergraduate associates were filmed by the *Montel* show as they discussed the politics of 2008. Afterwards, they went to New York to view the taping of the show that included film of their class.

SHORT TAKES

What is the connection between what happens in the classroom and at the kitchen table? That question lies at the heart of a research project undertaken in four New Jersey high schools by assistant research professor Tim Vercellotti and research associate Elizabeth Matto, with funding from CIRCLE. The project’s purpose is to measure the impact of using news magazines in high school classrooms on young people’s political knowledge, their interest in politics, and their attitudes regarding their role in the political system. Preliminary findings will be released this summer.

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The online Eagleton Assessment measures students’ civic knowledge, interest, attitude, and engagement. The Assessment has been tested in three New Jersey high schools, with nearly 1,500 freshmen participating. Social studies supervisors will help to further develop the assessment during 2008-2009, with the goal of expanding the pool of high schools in 2009-2010. Aiming to serve high schools, policymakers and the public at large, the assessment promises to be a unique resource for academic research on civic engagement.



Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon and Princeton Associate Professor Melissa Harris-Lacewell discuss “What’s On the Urban Agenda for the Next President” in an April conversation presented under the auspices of the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women’s Political Leadership.



Eagleton director Ruth B. Mandel greets David Kirp, professor of public policy at the University of California-Berkeley, who spoke about the topic of his book, *The Sandbox Investment: The Preschool Movement and Kids-First Politics*, in an event co-sponsored by Eagleton, the National Institute for Early Education Research, and the Rutgers Graduate School of Education’s Department of Educational Theory, Policy and Administration.



Former White House advisor and best-selling author David Gergen talks politics with Professor Dan Tichenor’s graduate students. Left to right: Jermaine Rankin, Amanda Flanders, David Gergen, Kelly Dittmar, Amy Buzby.



The 2008 Albert W. Lewitt Lecturer, former Congressman Mickey Edwards, speaks about his book, *Reclaiming Conservatism: How a Great American Political Movement Got Lost – and How It Can Find Its Way Back*.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Phil Furmanski hosted a reception for former Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland before Sarbanes spoke in New Brunswick as the 2008 Clifford P. Case Professor of Public Affairs. His visit to Rutgers, organized by Eagleton, also included talks in Newark and Camden, as well as meetings with faculty and students. Sarbanes retired from the Senate after a distinguished 36-year congressional career highlighted by sponsorship of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which reformed the business world and restored public confidence in Wall Street by holding companies liable for unethical actions. The Act was the subject of much discussion and interest during his talks at Rutgers.



NEW JERSEY TESTS CLEAN ELECTIONS PLAN

Clean Elections in New Jersey? To some, that is an oxymoron. But New Jersey has experimented with Clean Elections through pilot projects in 2005 and 2007. The plan provides public funding in selected legislative districts if candidates first collect small contributions from a substantial number of voters. Eagleton's New Jersey Project has monitored this initiative with a grant from the Fund for New Jersey.

Surveys on voter awareness of Clean Elections – both statewide and in the districts where Clean Elections were held – were conducted in a collaboration between Eagleton's Center for Public Interest Polling and the Fairleigh Dickinson Public Mind Poll, while citizen partners in the Clean Election districts collected campaign materials and students studied newspaper coverage. The survey responses showed that voters in Clean Election districts knew more about the reform in 2007 than in 2005, but the process did not improve their trust in the legislature. Voters in Clean Elections districts saw more newspaper stories and received more campaign material than those in districts with traditional campaigns, which may explain why surveys showed voters in Clean Elections districts

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were more aware of legislative races than those in districts with traditional campaigns.

The New Jersey Project has produced a report on Clean Elections in six states – Maine, Arizona, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey – describing characteristics of each state's program and the political effort that led to it. The book, funded in part by the Community Foundation of New Jersey, is available on Eagleton's web site as well as in hard copy.

SHORT TAKES

The Center for American Women and Politics received the National Council for Research on Women's 2008 Member Center Award, recognizing "innovative work in the past year and lasting impact on scholarship, policy and action to benefit women and girls, their families and communities." The award, presented at a June 5 reception, acknowledges "CAWP's significant contributions over the years to changing the face – and gender – of American political life."

YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (continued)

elections and the Super Tuesday presidential primary, RUVoting efforts included:

- updating and maintaining the RUVoting website;
- participating in Rutgers University's "Involvement Fair;"
- organizing student groups to form an "RU Voting Coalition" focused on "REM" – registration, education, and mobilization;
- holding a screening of *18 in '08*, a documentary about youth voting by 18-year-old filmmaker David Burstein;
- hosting a visit to Rutgers by the "Project Vote Smart" bus;
- participating in NJPIRG's "Ramen Noodle Fundraiser;"
- using flyers, advertisements, and student-staffed tables to encourage students to register and vote.

The highlight of the academic year was on January 28, when representatives from several presidential campaigns took part in

From the Young Leaders Conference:

I upset some people, but that's why I got elected. You have to do what's right.

Hector Bonilla, Perth Amboy Board of Education

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It all starts with passion and compassion.

Moses Santizo, Latino Reform Youth Council

a panel discussion moderated by two Eagleton Undergraduate Associates, "RU Voting in 2008?"

At the high school level, YPPP interns piloted RU Ready, a citizenship training initiative directed to high school seniors preparing to vote for the first time. In its first year, the project was tested in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy High Schools. The RU Ready team of trained Rutgers students met with the high school students in a series of interactive sessions throughout the academic year:

- "Because Politics Matters" – introducing high school students to the idea that politics matters in their everyday lives;
- "All Politics is Local" – exploring local issues and meeting a local elected leader;
- "Voting 101" – learning about the process of voting and registering to vote;
- "Young Leaders Conference" – a day-long conference at Eagleton wrapping up the year, with students from the two schools participating in a scavenger hunt, creating posters about various aspects of civic engagement, and hearing from a lively panel of politicians and activists from the two cities who offered sage advice.

Next year, RU Ready will focus on students at New Brunswick High School, thanks to a new grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Complementary service-learning opportunities for the high school students will enable them to put their newly acquired civic skills to work in their own community. In addition, Eagleton will hold workshops for parents of the students to support the civic learning of their children.

EAGLETON PEOPLE

Susan Carroll, senior scholar at CAWP and political science professor, will have chapters published in two new books: "Committee Assignments: Discrimination or Choice?" in *Legislative Women: Getting Elected, Getting Ahead*, edited by Beth Reingold (Lynne Rienner Publishers), and "Security Moms and Presidential Politics: Women Voters in the 2004 Election," in *The Gender Gap: Voting and the Sexes*, edited by Lois Duke Whitaker (University of Illinois Press).

Jane Junn, associate professor at Eagleton and the Department of Political Science, has edited a new volume with Kerry L. Haynie of Duke University, *New Race Politics in America: Understanding Minority and Immigrant Politics*, published by Cambridge University Press. The book explores the political consequences of the large-scale foreign migration to the United States that has taken place in recent years. Among the authors is Elizabeth Matto, director of Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program, who co-authored with Junn an introductory chapter about the shifting racial and ethnic composition of the country; the similarities between recent waves of immigration and those in the early 20th century; and the contrasting theoretical views regarding the effects of this dynamic racial environment on American politics.

Junn has also authored an article on Asian American political identity, which will be published in *Du Bois Review*, a scholarly, multidisciplinary, and multicultural journal devoted to social science research and criticism about race.

Institute director **Ruth B. Mandel** taught a first-year seminar, "A Woman for President?" in spring 2008. The Rutgers first-year seminars program was inaugurated in 2007-08 to introduce students to cutting-edge research conducted by faculty at Rutgers. Mandel's class benefitted from her ongoing research about women as political candidates in 2008, focused on the presidential campaign of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. That research took Man-

del to Iowa and New Hampshire to observe the first caucuses and primary. The students were able to see Senator Clinton in person at a post-election Super Tuesday event in New York.

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers has established an award in honor of CAWP information services project manager **Gilda Morales**, who earned her B.A. in that field while at Douglass College. The faculty created the Gilda Morales Award for Outstanding Student Activism, presented for the first time in May 2008, to recognize her "tireless work to document and foster women's political activism."

Alan Rosenthal reports: "I have just finished another book on state legislatures: *Engines of Democracy: Politics and Policy Making in State Legislatures*. I'm not sure I have another book about legislatures in me, so I decided to go over to the dark side. My new study is of governors and their role in policy making. How do governors shape their agendas? How do they work their agendas to enactment? What do they have to show for their efforts? Some years ago, I wrote a book on governors and legislatures, which I think can be improved upon. This is my chance to make amends and begin exploring state policy making from a different perspective. At the very least, the endeavor will keep me off the streets."

Kira Sanbonmatsu, senior scholar at CAWP and associate professor of political

science, published a book chapter titled "Representation by Gender and Parties" in *Political Women and American Democracy*, published by Cambridge University Press and edited by Christina Wolbrecht, Karen Beckwith, and Lisa Baldez. Sanbonmatsu is currently serving as president of the American Political Science Association's Organized Section on Women and Politics.

John Weingart is chairing the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council. Appointed to this position by Governor Jon Corzine, Weingart has led the Council through 65 public meetings, 11 public hearings and the production of a draft regional land use plan for a part of northwest New Jersey that includes parts of 88 municipalities in seven counties. The Council expects to adopt a final plan this summer.

Cliff Zukin, professor of public policy and director of the public policy program at Rutgers' Bloustein School, presented his study, "The American Public and the Next Social Contract: Public Opinion and Political Culture," at a February 29 Washington, DC event covered by CSPAN. The study was released by the New American Foundation.

New Eagleton Staff

Lara Dubowchik has joined Eagleton as events coordinator. A 2004 Rutgers College graduate, she brings to the Institute experience in a non-profit organization, the New Jersey Association on Correction. She has also worked in private sector catering.

Jessica Rowan, a former CAWP intern, has returned as administrative assistant for the Center and database manager for Eagleton. Since graduating from Douglass in 2005, she has been a congressional aide, French teacher and office manager.



Eagleton staff members Lara Dubowchik (l.) and Jessica Rowan (r.).

CAWP'S READY TO RUN, DIVERSITY PROGRAMS FLOURISH; OTHER STATES CREATE PARTNER PROGRAMS

More than 200 women attended CAWP's tenth annual Ready to Run™ campaign training in March, which featured information-packed sessions in two tracks to meet the needs of women at different points in the political spectrum: *I'm Ready to Run, Now What?* and *I'm Not Ready to Run Yet, But...*

Building on a successful plan initiated in 2007 with support from The Fund for New Jersey, Ready to Run™ featured a Diversity Initiative designed to attract more women of color to the political process. Over 125 women of color attended one of three special pre-conference programs, each with its own workshops and speakers: *Run Sister Run: Women of the African Diaspora Changing the Political Landscape*; *Rising Stars: Educating Asian American Women for Politics*; and *Elección Latina*. To cap the day, participants came together for dinner with keynote speaker Melissa Harris-Lacewell, associate professor of politics and African American studies at Princeton University, who addressed the importance of getting more women into office and the barriers impeding that goal.

New this year was a grant from the Comcast Foundation providing travel subsidies

(Below) Haddonfield Mayor Tish Colombi, Passaic County Clerk Karen Brown, Passaic County Freeholder Sonia Rosado, Newark City Council President Mildred Crump, and State Senator Jennifer Beck speak on a panel about laying the groundwork for public life.



(Above) Ready to Run™ participants enjoy listening to the speakers during one of the day's panels.

and scholarships for attendees from the far corners of the state. This allowed several of the Diversity Initiative participants to attend both days of the conference and increased geographic diversity for Ready to Run™ overall .

CAWP is actively seeking partners around the nation for the Ready to Run™ Training Network. The Center's experienced team assists organizations in developing Ready to Run™ programs

tailored to the political culture in their states. Drawing on CAWP's ten years of testing and honing the Ready to Run™ program, partners can hit the ground running. Programs are already underway or in the works in Alabama, Hawaii, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. For more information, contact Jean Sinzdak at sinzdak@rci.rutgers.edu or 732/932-9384, ext. 260.

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About the Eagleton Institute of Politics

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 and the state executive; women's participation in politics; immigration and democracy; campaigns, elections and political parties; youth political participation; climate and social policy; public opinion polling and survey research; and New Jersey politics. Eagleton websites include:

www.eagleton.rutgers.edu

www.njvoterinfo.org

www.cawp.rutgers.edu

www.csp.rutgers.edu

eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu

Send Us Your Comments

We welcome your comments and responses to our newsletter, as well as 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: Martin Bunzl, Susan Carroll, Randi Chmielewski, Lara Dubowchik, Jane Junn, Sarah Kozak, Ruth B. Mandel, Elizabeth Matto, Ingrid Reed, Jessica Rowan, Kira Sanbonmatsu, Jean Sinzdak, John Weingart, and Cliff Zukin.