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# The Rose Report

*The Newsletter of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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**Dr. Ralph Rossum**  
*Director*

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I want to discuss briefly the Rose Institute's successful multi-conference program of this past year entitled "Governing California in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." But let me begin with two important acknowledgments.

First, I want to congratulate Dr. Steven Frates ('69) on his appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Performance Review Commission. The goal of the Commission is to restructure, reorganize, and reform state government to make it more responsive to the needs of its citizens and business community. Steve, a senior fellow at the Rose Institute and responsible for directing our fiscal analysis unit, is ideally suited to help the Commission achieve that goal; he has served as an assistant

in municipal government, as the head of a major metropolitan taxpayer association, and on the California Constitutional Revision Commission. Steve earned his Ph.D. at USC and has been a faculty member at USC and the University of Colorado. It is a measure of the high regard in which his fiscal and administrative expertise is held that twice he has been asked to serve the California citizenry on important state commissions by elected officials of the political party opposite his own.

Second, I want to welcome on board the Rose Institute's new student leadership team. All seniors at CMC, the team includes Toby Tobler, Student Manager; Jill Carlson, Assistant Student Manager; Gregory Wright, Survey Manager; and Jeff Simonetti, Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey Manager. They are hard at work supervising projects, hiring and training our students, assisting in the analysis and preparation of research reports, and participating in the

actual presentation of our findings to our clients. They are "walking billboards" of the fabulous educational experience provided by both the Rose Institute and CMC.

In a series of three conferences conducted during the last academic year under the general heading of "Governing California in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," we at the Rose Institute looked at the crises in state governance that have led to huge budget deficits, a tattered bond rating, gerrymandering so perfected that representatives now choose their voters rather than voters their representatives, public cynicism, and a recalled governor. Governing California, we demonstrated, has been complicated – more in this state than in any other – by the extraordinary use made here of the direct ballot. California has a progressive-era constitution that includes such direct ballot provisions as recall, referendum, and initiative. The people of the state have made frequent use of the direct ballot to pass scores of initiatives and

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referenda; recently, as we all remember, they made use of it to recall a politician who fell from favor.

These provisions reflect the progressives' conviction that the cure to the ills of democracy is more democracy. As the great progressive politician Woodrow Wilson argued in a chapter of his 1912 Presidential campaign book *The New Freedom* entitled "The People Need No Guardians": the framers of the U.S. Constitution were "willing to act for the people, but . . . not willing to act *through* the people. Now we propose to act for ourselves." It goes without saying that the progressives' views on these matters were completely different from those of H. L. Mencken, who defined democracy as giving the people what they want and giving it to them good and hard.

The direct ballot provisions of the California Constitution have in turn led to the adoption of other provisions that have complicated effective governance. The recent budget crises in Sacramento can be traced in part to Prop. 13, which in 1978 imposed the requirement that any new taxes in the state must be approved by two-thirds of the legislature.

When this was added to earlier language in the original Progressive era constitution requiring a two-thirds approval of the budget, a variety of interesting problems have arisen: 1) it has given a virtual veto to the minority party; 2) it has resulted in the annual delays in the passage of the budget; and 3) it has undercut political accountability. To get a budget passed, one party can almost never do it alone; it invariably needs the votes of at least a few members of

the opposing party, which means that the citizenry cannot hold one party accountable for either increased taxes or decreased services.

A decade after Prop. 13, Prop. 98 was passed, ensuring that approximately forty percent of the state general fund tax revenues go to public education and community colleges. This ballot-box budgeting measure has been followed by subsequent propositions that have likewise earmarked certain portions of the budget for items such as parklands and roads. The result of all of this, of course, is that the legislature's discretion over spending has been substantially restricted. Two years after Prop. 98 came Prop. 140, which imposed term limits. Much good resulted from Prop. 140, but an unfortunate consequence has been the weakening of legislative leadership, ensuring less experienced legislators and leaders. Not even an earlier proposition, Prop. 1A, has been helpful in this regard – and in fact many argue that it has contributed further to the state's woes. Prop. 1A, passed in 1966, converted the state's part-time citizen legislature into a full-time professional legislature that was responsible for the state's abysmal failure to deregulate energy – the comedian Dennis Miller says that in California, we are buying energy at mini-bar prices. Contrast that with the part-time citizen legislature of Texas, which achieved stunning success in true deregulation of energy in that state. Whatever one's personal views about the direct ballot, it is here to stay. Therefore, in the first of our three conferences we focused on the criticisms of how propositions are currently written.

Our conferees noted that many are proposed by small groups of individual activists or single-interest groups and are typically drafted without the benefit of any public debate or external criticism that could improve their language and without the kind of legal scrutiny that could help them avoid court challenges – either before they get on the ballot or once adopted. In our second conference, we looked in detail at four possible reforms that could improve governing California in the upcoming decades and that would require use of the direct ballot to be achieved: The Open Primary, Redistricting Reform, a Constitutional Spending Cap, and the return to some form of a Limited Legislature. Arguments for and against such reforms were ventilated, and specific draft language was entertained.

The third conference focused on three of these four issues (since the Open Primary Proposition had by then qualified for the ballot and will be voted on this November 2, we decided to focus our attention elsewhere); we reviewed draft language of proposed propositions that had undergone extensive legal review, discussed the thinking behind their provisions, and heard analysis and criticism of their features. We are in the process of finalizing a Rose Institute publication that will bring the work of these conferences to the attention of the wider public.

Our work on two of these three issues – commission-based redistricting and a return to a part-time legislature – has already borne fruit. Two articles in this issue of the *Rose Report* discuss them in some detail.

## Student Manager's Notes

**Jill Carlson '05**  
**Toby Tobler '05**

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Over the past summer, a small but dedicated team of Rose Institute research assistants tackled several daunting projects and handled them with the attention to detail and the professional attitude that defines the work of our student staff.

In June, a management team anchored by sophomores Jacquelyn Bean and Julia Cox organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Discussion on the Future of the Coachella Valley. The conference addressed issues of critical importance to community leaders and citizens including tribal-state relationships, population growth in the region, and quality of life concerns. The conference also featured the results of a survey conducted by the Institute under the stewardship of Survey Manager Greg Wright. The survey results highlighted areas of continuing concern for Coachella Valley residents, but also demonstrated overwhelming approval for the steps taken by local government to improve quality of life since the first conference six years ago.

The Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey continued to expand and develop thanks to the efforts of Kosmont Manager Jeff Simonetti and sophomore Jacquelyn Bean. The survey, which examines tax structures and economic incentives



to determine the cost of doing business within a community, has been administered by the Institute since 2002. This summer, the Kosmont team implemented a new sales and marketing scheme that has significantly increased revenues. They continued updating the 2005 edition by adding target cities with high population growth, and they created an electronic system of updating returning cities, vastly simplifying a time-consuming component of the project.

In a mammoth Institute summer project, junior Justin Levitt and sophomores Chris Urban, Julia Cox, and Jacquelyn Bean managed a ground-breaking redistricting impact study. The study took a quantitative look at the impact of 2001 redistricting on congressional and state legislative districts, and, for the first time, measured the differences between districts drawn by legislatures, by independent commissions, and by judges. Our research assistants poured over state election data and applied quantitative analysis methods to

measure compactness, competitiveness, and impact of redistricting on communities of interest.

In September, we and the other student managers had the great pleasure of interviewing and hiring nine very impressive young men and women from CMC's Class of 2008. We had nearly fifty applicants this year, so the new hires can truly be considered the best of the best. They come from all regions of the country and from backgrounds shaped by diverse experiences, but they share an enthusiasm for public policy and a spirit of teamwork that made them stand out above their peers.

We look forward to the year ahead. We are confident that our new team members will continue to please us with their eagerness and aptitude, and we look forward to watching the veterans of the sophomore and junior classes grow into leadership roles and carry on the tradition of excellence in policy analysis that sets us apart as a research institute.

## Prague in January: The International Youth Leadership Conference



**Angela Zhang '07**

*Research Assistant*

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The International Youth Leadership Conference, held in Prague this January, required that I adjust to the sub-zero temperature. Even with my down coat, ski gloves, and fur-lined boots, I could not venture outside without feeling a biting chill. The conference provided an important chance for students from different countries to exchange opinions on affairs of the world, large and small. I listened to a Serbian facilitator who denounced the way CNN portrayed the Kosovo situation, talked to female students from United Arab Emirates, and met with the Israeli Ambassador. I learned about Europe's fascination with carbonated water, and that I must ask for "water, no gas" when ordering at a restaurant. I also tried to figure out Prague's metro stations with maps from the hotel concierge. Friendships made over drinking gasless water and decoding subway maps can run deep—I still keep in touch with a couple of students that I met in Prague, one from Boston and one from Uzbekistan. Support from the Rose Institute, the Kravis Leadership Institute, and the Dean of Students made my participation in the Conference possible.

## Recipient of a Political Education Fellowship

**Erin Searcy '06**

*Former Research Assistant*

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Last May I was fortunate enough to receive one of three Political Education Fellowships offered through the Career Services office at Claremont McKenna College. My particular award was made possible through a grant from the Rose Institute.

With the generous backing of the Rose Institute, I spent the summer managing a state senator's reelection campaign in Phoenix, Arizona. Slade Mead, the senator for whom I worked, is an incumbent and moderate Republican in a legislative district covering sections of Tempe, Chandler and Ahwatukee. In the 2002 budget process Senator Mead paired with Senator Linda Binder from Lake Havasu in Arizona to hold up a budget which would drastically cut public education funding. At that point the two legislators frustrated the Republican party leadership, and the ramifications of that were felt in this summer's race. With a staff comprised primarily of myself and the senator himself, we battled against a 20-year legislature veteran John Huppenthal who gave up his seat in the House to oust Senator Mead. With no Democrat vying for the seat, the September 7th primary election determined the race. After spending nearly \$100,000, more than two times the normal amount spent on a state general election, we lost the primary after our opponent ran a very damaging smear campaign and we refused to respond in similar fashion.

Though defeat was never my goal, the process taught me volumes about the game of politics. I was fortunate enough to work in the ever-interesting political climate of Arizona, and for a candidate whom I respect both as a person and a legislator. With that experience, I am now applying for the Truman Scholarship, focusing on public education funding and reform. I owe a thank you to the Rose Institute for allowing me this experience, which gave me an appreciation for and understanding of the political structure within which I plan to work.

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## Political Action in Bighorn Country

**Andrew Lee '07**

*Research Assistant*

As part of the Political Education Fellowship (PEF), a CMC program designed to increase knowledge of political campaigns, I had the opportunity to work on the Salazar for Senate campaign in the state of Colorado. My internship focused on the areas of Policy & Research, Media, Finance, and Field. I rotated through all four areas of the campaign before choosing to focus on the Policy & Research portion of the campaign for the remainder of my time.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the campaign was its dedication toward one single goal. The portions of the campaign functioned together much like a human body: the fundraising portion was the blood of the campaign, the research & policy areas were the brain, the field operation was the physical presence of the campaign outside of headquarters, while the media was the voice of the campaign. I learned that the heart of the campaign was the staff and volunteers: most of them unpaid, and even the paid staff was working at a very low wage; however, we all worked because we believed in the vision that Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar had to offer Colorado.

As a research analyst, I generated both policy papers and briefs, and developed the ability to

link ideas in my mind that were relevant to Colorado voters. My CMC classes were great preparation for research; my research report in Professor Ken Miller's California Politics class on water politics and water marketing was more than adequate preparation to discuss water issues in Colorado. Additionally, my work experience in state and local government through the Rose Institute provided an advantage in briefing sessions.



*Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar with Rose Institute Research Assistant Andrew Lee ('07)*

The internship was fast-paced because once the research shop (comprising the media/policy/opposition researchers) received word of a negative attack in the newspapers, we had to be able to generate talking points and responses. I learned more about text databases, such as Lexis-Nexis, NewsBank, etc. by working on the campaign and when our

candidate demonstrated that he knew his issues in debates, I knew that it was my research and my briefing books that helped him. Although Ken was not always able to thank me personally for the mounds of research I generated, he always made a stop to my corner of the office to ask me how I was doing.

My dedication and hard work paid off when the campaign offered me a position as a researcher through the November election. Unfortunately, I did not take the position, wishing to finish my studies at CMC. One observation stands out in my mind; a campaign is one of a handful of businesses where people work because they believe in a better tomorrow. Special thanks to President Pamela Gann for her kind generosity and support as one of my primary sponsors of the PEF. My experience on the Salazar campaign gave me life-long contacts and lessons in running a campaign. I am glad I was a part of this campaign and the vision for a better Colorado.

**Editor's Note:** The Rose Institute sponsors one of the three Political Education Fellowships available on a biennial basis to CMC students. Applications are made to career services and interviews are conducted by a faculty-staff team. This year Erin Searcy ('06) was selected to be sponsored by the Institute.

# Women of the Board: Governors' Focus

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Chelsea Norell '08

Meredith Stechbart '08

*Research Assistants*

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## Nohemi Gutierrez Ferguson

Nohemi Gutierrez Ferguson graduated in the class of 1982 from Claremont McKenna College, and is the most recent inductee into the Rose Institute Board of Governors. As a freshman research assistant at the Rose Institute, Ms. Ferguson filed legislative bills. Later in her career at the Institute she found her passion: cartography and redistricting. Although she did not apply her mapping skills to her profession later in life, Ms. Ferguson fondly remembers hand-drawing lines on maps and discovering how districts can be manipulated to influence competition. She enjoyed working alongside Dr. Adams, the Associate Director of the Rose Institute, and Bob Walters, currently the Associate Vice President of the Information Systems and Technology at CMC.

After completing her undergraduate education at CMC, Ms. Ferguson attended UCLA Law School, and currently practices employment law for Gutierrez, Preciado and House, where she is a partner. Her firm devotes itself to counseling and defending private and public employers, and she has represented the County of Los Angeles in over one-hundred cases involving potential local government liability. She lives with her husband and four children in Pasadena, and is kept busy and sleepless by her eight-month old child. However, she juggles motherhood and her professional career smoothly. She was elected in May of this year to the Board of Governors.

## Paula Fong

Paula Fong graduated from Arizona State University in 1972 after paying her own way through college with various accounting jobs. After college, Mrs. Fong began working as a business consultant. Today she owns her own consulting firm, specializing in financial consulting for small businesses. Ms. Fong has two children, one son and one daughter, both of whom attended Pepperdine University. She spends some of her time helping her husband with his consulting firm. Mr. Matthew Fong, a former California State Treasurer, also specializes in financial consulting. He was also a member of the Institute's California Congressional Recognition Program Board.

When asked how she became a member of the Board, she replied, "Dr. Heslop approached me and asked if I would like to be on the Board. I wasn't sure what I would bring to the table; however, I realized that I bring diversity to the Board and a different viewpoint on issues than the other members." Mrs. Fong's mother-in-law, former California Secretary of State, March Fong Eu, once served on the Board of Governors.

Mrs. Fong recently attended the Republican National Convention as a delegate, and was picked to sit on the stage with the President on the last night. When asked about the convention she replied that it was "an interesting experience and very exciting to be on the stage!"

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## Marguerite Mary Leoni

Marguerite Mary Leoni graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned both BA and MA degrees. She went on to graduate from University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1981. Ms. Leoni has been a partner at Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor, LLP for seventeen years, and specializes in legal counseling and litigation relating to redistricting and the Voting Rights Act, school district reorganizations, election, campaign and government law. Her firm represents clients sued under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and in turn will help define the scope of the law. Her litigation will test the constitutionality of the CVRA and establish standards of proof under the act. Ms. Leoni has published articles about the Federal and State Voting Rights Acts and she has served as a panelist at numerous conferences and seminars on redistricting.

With a major in Italian and a minor in Spanish, Ms. Leoni was passionate about researching literature in college. She feels privileged to be part of the Board of Governors because the Rose Institute is an ideal outlet for student research. Ms. Leoni said the Rose Institute “gives an opportunity to young people to understand government with something more than an academic perspective” and “the experience is invaluable; the Rose Institute is truly pursuing an educational mission.”

Ms. Leoni is looking forward to the October 28, 2004 Board of Governors meeting, which will be her second meeting as a member. She is enthusiastic about discussing Mr. Christopher Townsend’s proposed political internships in Sacramento for student researchers at the Rose Institute.

Marguerite Leoni brings the perspective of an academic, a practitioner, and a woman to the Board of Governors. Ms. Leoni’s experience on the board has provided her a “wealth of research opportunities, faith in the future, and a confidence in the youth.”

*Ms. Shannon L. Kelly is also a member of the board of governors. She has been featured in the Spring 2003 Rose Report.*

## CSIP Internship: Assisting Homeless Youth

**Michael Peel '07**

*Research Assistant*

During the summer of 2004, I worked as an intern at a non-profit organization dealing with homeless youth and became a part of the staff as the project associate. Through the Community Service Internship program at Claremont McKenna College, I was able to set up this internship with the help of the Executive Director and create a position for myself that reflected the skills I have acquired as a research assistant at the Rose Institute. My experience working for Youth On Their Own (YOTO), a non-profit organization in Tucson, AZ helped me to get a first-hand account of how homeless youth cope with their situation and to understand the crucial impact of the non-profit organization.

The mission of YOTO is dedicated to supporting the high school graduation of homeless youth by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance. During the course of the internship, I participated and was mentored in many diverse areas, including assisting in the development of a program evaluation plan; performing research and data analysis; helping formulate project curriculum for a life skills program; working with the student advocate to provide counseling, tutoring, advocacy, and personal coaching to program participants; and designing a marketing and public relations plan with the help of the development specialist.

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The crux of the internship centered on the program evaluation, for which my skills acquired at the Rose Institute were put to great use. I designed a Student Satisfaction survey consisting of thirty questions that were based on the staff retreat discussion in June. I administered the survey to students in the program and compiled all of the data into a report. I then designed a discussion guide based on the most pertinent data and conducted a focus group with eight students in the program. All of the data was compiled into a final "Student Satisfaction 2004" report that I presented to the Social Services committee. In September, this report was presented to the Board of Directors, who are now acting to implement the recommendations that I set forth after my three-month tenure.

In addition to developing my survey skills, I also created an Access database that the Student Advocate will use to keep comprehensive information on every student enrolled in the program (which made me appreciate all of those Thursday night Access training sessions at the Rose Institute).

Considering that there are only five staff members (including the executive director), I found that I immediately became the sixth staff member, with my position being deemed

the "project associate." The staff hardly has enough time to do anything extra, which is where my position fell into place. I worked on curriculum writing and revision for a program called Strategies for Success that is designed to teach the juniors and seniors (who are selected through an application process) career and post-high school education planning as well as life skills development. This appealed to me because I was able to construct worksheets and activities on resume writing, interview skills and appropriate dress, time management, etc. These are all areas that college students must face every day (especially at CMC), and I felt rewarded to be able to help the future students enrolled in this program, especially since they have absolutely no support system outside of YOTO.

For the marketing aspect of the internship, I worked with the development specialist and a local advertisement agency to design a charitable tax credit brochure that could potentially make thousands of dollars for YOTO. The brochure, along with a postcard and an email reminder, will be implemented in the fall with the goal being to get ahead of the other non-profit organizations. I was also able to mentor and "screen" student applicants for the upcoming school year. These were students who had failed to graduate during the

2003–2004 school year. Through the use of a "personal action plan" worksheet, one of my recommendations for the program, I was able to learn a tremendous amount about these students whom I saw on a weekly basis.

The chance to work on so many unique projects proved to be unlike anything I ever expected from the internship. The skills that I was able to both learn and enhance last summer will serve me well in my future work at the Rose Institute and beyond. Unfortunately, the time flew by much too fast, as all good things do. The good news is that I will continue to stay updated on what happens at YOTO because this organization is one that will always be of immense importance to me.



*Rose Institute Research Assistant Michael Peel ('07) working at YOTO*

## Limited Legislature

**Jesse Oliver**

*Senior Research Associate*

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On October 1, 2004 I traveled to Sacramento to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual “Envisioning California” conference hosted by California State University, Sacramento’s Center for California Studies. The theme of this year’s conference was “Refounding California: Envisioning the Future of State Governance.” Drawing upon the research the Institute students and I have undertaken on the California legislature and recommendations stemming from our “Governing California” series, I was invited to discuss, along with Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh (D-Southgate), former Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti, and former Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti, practical legislative reform proposals. Specifically, I argued for returning to a modified limited legislature.

Unlike the Costa initiative currently circulating, which would reduce legislative salaries and institute a 90-day, biennial session, the Rose Institute’s model would retain a full-time legislature with full-time salary while introducing a limited session, “home-rule” system. Under the current constitutional arrangements, California’s is a two-year, continuous legislative session. The model proposed by the Rose Institute would reintroduce the bifurcated legislative session lasting between three and five months each: odd years would be dedicated to the budget and even years would be general sessions. Although the legislative session would be limited in duration, the legislators would still be working year round. The remainder of the year would be spent in their home districts allowing them to reconnect with their districts through constituent meetings and field hearings. Additionally, the slower pace of the interim period would allow legislators to research relevant issues, create reports to help enlighten and elevate the level of legislative deliberation, and provide them with time away from the pressures (special interests, etc.) and pace of Sacramento to reflect upon the issues at hand.

Although the main emphasis of my presentation was on returning to a modified limited legislature, several other reforms were also discussed including the open primary and commission redistricting. Apparently several of the reform proposals recommended in our “Governing California” series are garnering bipartisan support. Senator Roberti announced that after watching the recent bipartisan gerrymander that has virtually eliminated all electoral competition, he is a “latter day convert” to commission redistricting. Additionally, after hearing my presentation, former Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy expressed interest in working with the Institute on some of these reforms.

## Rose Institute Website Updated

The Rose Institute Website has recently been updated by Rose Institute Research Assistants Ethan Andyshak and Pierce Rossum. It will be accessible by October 31, 2004. Our publications are available for order online. Please visit [Rose.Research.McKenna.edu](http://Rose.Research.McKenna.edu).

**ROSE INSTITUTE**  
OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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# Rose Institute Summer Research Adds Quantitative Element to Redistricting Reform Debate

**Douglas Johnson '92**

*Senior Research Associate*

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The Rose Institute's 30-year effort to educate the public regarding redistricting and its abuses has paid off in the last three years as many journalists and prominent politicians have converted to the belief that California's system of drawing Congressional and State Legislative districts is badly in need of reform. In the past, reform discussions focused on theory rather than practice; but during the 1990s, a handful of states adopted or strengthened approaches to redistricting free of legislative self-interest. These states, and the Congressional and Legislative districting plans they drew in 2001, provide us with quantifiable data for analysis. Turning those plans into useful test-beds for research required extensive GIS capabilities, a thorough understanding of the redistricting process, and a strong analytic framework. In the summer of 2004, funded by a generous grant from CMC Life Trustee Buzz Woolley, the Institute undertook that research effort.

The Institute's analysis was conducted by a team of student researchers: Justin Levitt ('06), Chris Urban ('07), Jacquelyn Bean ('07) and Julia Cox ('07); with assistance from Gregory Wright ('05) and Tyler White ('07). Student Manager Toby Tobler ('05) and Assistant Manager Jill Carlson ('05), aided, guided and assisted the team.

The analysis focused on the differences between the state legislative and congressional districts used in the 2000 election (i.e., districts drawn in the 1990s), and the districts used in the 2002 election (i.e., districts drawn after the decennial census of 2000). Our database now contains all 2000 and 2002 Congressional districts, plus state legislative districts from key states – 126 districting plans in all. Chris Urban noted, "Entering and analyzing data for so many elections was very time-consuming, but in the process we saw first-hand the profound effect redistricting has on the way representative democracy works."

The team divided the states into four main categories: New Commissions (a commission that drew lines in 2001 to replace lines drawn by legislatures in the 1990s); Returning Commissions (commissions that drew both the 1990s and 2001 districts); Legislatively-drawn plans; and Court-drawn 2001 plans. Using the Institute's GIS capabilities and redistricting resources, the students reviewed the competitiveness of the plans, the compactness of the plans, the number of communities split by district lines, and the impact of plans on incumbents.

The results were striking: incumbent re-election rates of plans drawn by the legislature was 86 percent. The rate dropped to just under 80 percent for plans drawn by the Courts or by returning Commissions, but incumbent re-election rates were only 66 percent in states with New Commissions and term limits and 57 percent in states with New Commissions and no term limits.

The data support the Institute's theories about gerrymandering: redistricting plans drawn by independent bodies, either Commissions or the Courts, divide fewer communities, have more compact districts, and have more competitive elections.

Once the report is finalized, the quantitative research completed by the Institute's hard-working student GIS wizards will add strength to the qualitative arguments for redistricting reform long espoused by the Institute. Interest in redistricting reform has increased enormously since the 2001 redistricting, especially in California where the precision of the Legislature's computer-drawn "sweetheart gerrymander" virtually eliminated competition in the state's legislative and congressional races.

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# New Student Research Assistants



**New Research Assistants:** (from left) Miles Staglik, Allison Strother, Meredith Stechbart, Kaci Farrell, Pierce Rossum, Aseem Vyas, Chelsea Norell, Emily Pears, Josh Schneider

## **Pierce Rossum '08**

### Research Assistant

This September, the Rose Institute hired nine new students out of an applicant pool of more than forty for coveted jobs as research assistants at the Institute. These students, from a variety of backgrounds and interests, represent the newest generation of Rose Institute researchers.

**Donald “Miles” Staglik** is from San Antonio, Texas, and is currently a freshman at CMC. He plans to pursue a degree in Economics and Accounting with a concentration in Financial Economics. In addition to his work at the Rose Institute, Miles is actively involved in community service projects and serves on the College’s Student Alumni Relations Committee. His interests include golf, investments, reading, scuba diving, swimming

and tennis. Some of his current career aspirations include investment banking and tax consulting.

**Allison Strother** is a freshman from Kirkland, Washington. She is considering completing a dual major in Government-Economics and hopes to go abroad and to study in Washington DC. Allison enjoys reading, playing tennis, listening to music and backpacking. One of her favorite features of Claremont McKenna thus far is the Athenaeum. She is thrilled to be working at the Rose Institute and is looking forward to a great year.

**Meredith Stechbart** graduated from Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, California as salutatorian of her class. She participated in student government in high school for three years, acting as Student Body President her senior year. She

competed in Mock Trial all four years of high school. In addition, Meredith ran her own business for four years as an equestrian trainer and riding instructor. At Claremont McKenna, Meredith is part of the debate union, an editor for one of the school newspapers, and a volunteer tour guide. She is interested in studying government policy and environmental issues, and hopes to gain experience at the Rose Institute that will broaden her knowledge in these areas.

**Kaci Farrell** is originally from Grass Valley, California. A transfer sophomore from Pitzer College, Kaci is an International Relations major. This past summer, Kaci worked for the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington DC. The program, designed for high school juniors and seniors, focused on business and entrepreneurship. She is the former

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Freshman Class President of Pitzer College and loves to be involved in student government. This is a passion she hopes to continue to pursue while at Claremont McKenna College. Kaci is also a member of the Claremont Women's Rugby Team.

**Pierce Rossum** is from Claremont, California. He graduated from Claremont High School and is currently enrolled as a freshman. He desires to pursue a bachelor's degree in Economics-Accounting with a dual in Government. Furthermore, he plans to attend the Washington D.C. semester where he can further develop his interest in government and economics. Pierce was also the Captain of his high school golf team and hopes to bring that same leadership to the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps golf team.

**Aseem Vyas** is an economics enthusiast. At CMC he plans on dual majoring in Economics and Biochemistry. In high school Aseem played basketball. He enjoys movies and music. Aseem feels honored to be part of the Rose Institute staff, and looks forward to the projects he will do in the next four years.

**Chelsea Norell** grew up in Los Angeles, California, and graduated from Harvard Westlake School. In high school, Chelsea participated in Student Government, Peer Tutoring and the Advanced Dance Company. She was also the captain of the Mock Trial team for three years and competed at the state level twice. Passionate about the

law, Chelsea has interned in the District Attorney's Office as a law clerk and research assistant for the past two years. Chelsea is honored to be a part of the staff at the Rose Institute.

**Emily Pears** is from Winchester, Massachusetts, and attended the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge, MA. In high school she was involved in student government, serving as a Student Council Representative for four years. Emily was also a founding member of the school's Model United Nations program and an application reader in the admissions office. She participated in the CYLC's National Young Leaders Conference and the Georgetown International Relations Program for High School Students. Emily has also interned for 21st Century Democrats, and volunteered for the Kerry/Edwards presidential campaign in Boston.

**Joshua Schneider** was born in New York City. Josh graduated from Hastings High School, where he excelled in government and history. As a six-year participant in the Westchester Model United Nations, including the role of Secretary-General of the conference, Josh learned the essentials of debate and organization in a competitive setting. His other hobbies in high school included varsity basketball and tennis. Josh is still deciding between a major in History or Government, but regardless of what his decision turns out to be, the Rose Institute is sure to play a crucial role in his college experience.

## The Rose Report

### The Rose Report

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