



Roger C. Lowery, Ph.D.  
Professor and Department Chair  
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#### BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Parsons, Kansas and raised in a blue-collar industrial suburb on the metro-east side of St. Louis in the little oil-refinery town of Roxana, Illinois. My dad owned and operated a hardware store (and instilled in me a pragmatic outlook, a strong work ethic, and a love of hands-on DIY projects); my mom was the public librarian (and imparted to me her intellectual curiosity and life-long love of reading and learning new things). After completing bachelors and masters degrees in **political science** at **Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville**, I taught political science for a year at **Missouri Southern State College** (now University) in Joplin.

Then, in 1969 -- like a lot of guys at the time -- I was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to far-away places with strange-sounding names. After basic training, I spent 10 months at Ft. McClellan, Alabama as a company clerk, first for the **4<sup>th</sup> MASH** and then for the 365<sup>th</sup> medium truck company that moved them around. Like the doctors in the **book, movie** and **TV's** 4077<sup>th</sup> MASH, most of our young physicians had also been drafted and were just as wild and crazy as Hawkeye, Trapper John, and BJ. Most of our truck drivers had already served a tour of duty in 'Nam and I was the Radar O'Reilly who managed the paper flow to keep them from getting court marshaled.

Next, the Army sent me to **Vietnam** where I was pulled out of the replacement depot by an **18<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade** courier who was that day rotating back home. Jan had been drafted out of Tulane University Law School and told me that he had picked me for his replacement because mine was the first personnel file that he came across showing a graduate degree in political science. Prior to being drafted he had been an intern in the office of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Hale Boggs. I spent much of my hitch in 'Nam driving a jeep on a circuit from **Long Binh Post** to the **Bien Hoa AFB** to **MACV** headquarters at the **Tan Son Nhut AFB** on the edge of **Saigon** and back to Long Binh. I got to see the **1970 Bob Hope Christmas show** with 13,000 other guys and later went to Hong Kong on R&R.

After my release from active duty, I completed a doctorate in **political science** at **Washington University in St. Louis** with specialties in American politics and research methods. My dissertation was titled, *The Development of Race as a Political Issue: Changes in Opinion, Policy, and Electoral Behavior, 1944-1976*. I have very fond memories of my years at "Wash. U." As the department website notes:

... our department has long had a reputation for collegiality, and for treating graduate students as participants in the enterprise of teaching and research to which the faculty is committed, and from which we get a good deal of satisfaction, and fun.

In 1974 I accepted a teaching position at **UNC Wilmington** with the political science department, joining two other full-time faculty (now renamed the **Department of Public & International Affairs** has 15 full-time and four part-time faculty members). My recently taught course work includes: PLS 203, **Religion and Politics in the U.S.**; PLS 302, **Public Opinion and American Democracy**; PLS 303, **Elections and Voting Behavior**; PLS 401, **Senior Seminar in Political Science**; and PLS 405, **Political Parties in the United States**. I am the coauthor of a textbook, *Library Research Guide to Political Science: With an Introduction to Legal Research for Undergraduates* (1993), a book chapter, eight journal articles, and over a dozen conference presentations on various aspects of American politics.

Since July of 2007, I have taken on the additional responsibilities of department chair. I have very fond memories of my years at UNCW, where we also have a reputation for collegiality, and for treating both undergraduate and graduate students as participants in the enterprise of teaching and research to which the faculty is committed, and from which we also get a great deal of satisfaction -- and fun.

My lovely wife (**Pat**, a retired speech-language pathologist) and I enjoy traveling, hiking, kayaking, watching St. Louis **Cardinals** and Chicago **Cubs** baseball games, and playing with our four grandchildren.