

Department of Political Science Newsletter

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A Note from the Chair

The Department of Political Science underwent a changing of the guard at the beginning of the spring semester. After more than four years of first-rate departmental leadership, **Paul Wahlbeck** was promoted to become vice dean for programs and research of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. It was my good fortune to be elected chair to replace him. I look forward to the opportunity to guide the department for the next few years.

Although the faces may have changed, the priorities have not. As the new chair, I will continue pursuing the goals of the chairs that came before me. First of all, that means promoting the ambitious research goals of our faculty and students. In recent months, department faculty and students have won prestigious fellowships and awards, and have published new books and journal articles. These accomplishments are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. Second, and relatedly, it means greater engagement between faculty and students. Our faculty continue to innovate in their teaching methods and collaborate more and more with their students on research projects. We are truly fortunate to have so many accomplished scholars and committed teachers in our department.

Being surrounded by so many talented faculty and students makes the job of department chair so exciting. In the years ahead, I intend to continue the record of achievements that has put us in the top tier of political science departments in the country. Stay tuned!

*-Bruce Dickson,
Department Chair*



Bruce Dickson



Department Chair Bruce Dickson announces award winners at the Department of Political Science's Annual Commencement Celebration on May 14, 2016

Scholarly Achievements [Graduate]

Lillian Frost Receives Fulbright Award*Excerpt from a Fulbright Press Release, May 12, 2016*

Lillian Frost of George Washington University has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to Jordan in Political Science from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Frost will be conducting research at the University of Jordan as part of her dissertation on variations in state citizenship policies toward women and protracted refugees.

Frost is one of approximately 1,900 U.S. citizens who will teach, conduct research, and provide expertise abroad for the 2016–2017 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of professional and academic achievement as well as a record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields.

Congratulations on this incredible achievement, Lilly!

*Lillian Frost in Jordan*

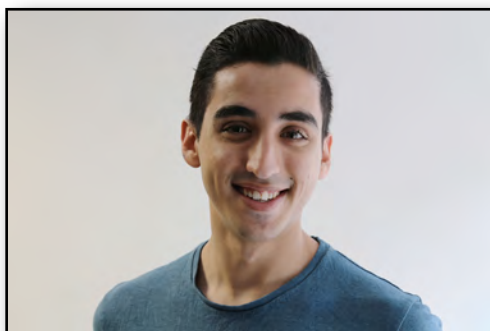
Scholarly Achievements [Undergraduate]

Meet GW's Incoming Student Association Leaders*Adapted from article written by Brittney Dunkins for GW Today*

Erika Feinman, a junior women's studies and political science double major in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, is the first queer, gender-non-binary student to be elected Student Association president. Feinman won 53.6 percent of the vote.

Feinman will serve alongside veteran SA leader **Thomas Falcigno**, a junior political science, journalism and mass communication major, who ran unopposed. Mr. Falcigno was sworn in as executive vice president-elect on March 7

Despite only a year in the SA serving as a senator on the Student Life Committee, Feinman is confident about turning limited experience into an asset with help from Falcigno and GW students.

*Erika Feinman**Thomas Falcigno*

"I think that I bring a fresh perspective because I've been able to seek out so many opportunities during my time at GW, whether serving as co-leader of the Feminist Student Union or participating in alternative breaks," Feinman said. "I think my experiences helped people to understand that I'm trying to bring as many voices to the table as possible."

Falcigno's three years of SA Senate experience also will also be an asset to Feinman in navigating the SA. Both students share a passion for keeping the SA mission focused on serving students' interests. Falcigno credits his time on the SA for developing his personal leadership skills and teaching him to collaborate with "36 senators and a handful of committees." He hopes to one day return to his home state of Connecticut and run for Congress.

"I think to be successful as an SA leader you don't take yourself too seriously, but you take the work incredibly seriously," Falcigno said. "I'm looking forward to balancing my new responsibilities and working with the new president to create a timeline that works best for our proposals."

Spotlight on Faculty

Best Professor: Danny Hayes

Originally written by Grace Gannon, Culture Editor of the GW Hatchet

What sets Associate Professor of Political Science **Danny Hayes** apart from all of the other politics professors at GW?

First, he's a three-time winner in the best professor category. He's also quite well-known on campus for his engaging lectures – and his chili pepper rating on RateMyProfessor. Whether you're a political science major or just filling a G-PAC requirement, Hayes's classes are always compelling and filled with his nerdy dad jokes.

But Hayes says his enthusiasm for the subject sets him apart. Well, that and his affinity for explaining the Constitution by way of tic-tac-toe and public policy by way of rap songs.

"Presenting things in ways that are unusual that students haven't thought about before is one way to get them to stick, so I try to do that as much as possible," Hayes said.

You'll likely come away from his class never forgetting the way public opinion influences public policy once you see Hayes' dance moves to "Stand Up" by Ludacris. You'll probably never listen to the refrain of "When I move, you move" the same way again, but it's worth it.

A former journalist, Hayes studies how the media and politicians influence the public. Hayes, who is also a contributor to *The Washington Post's* "Monkey Cage" blog, said he likes to "make it clear that I'm happy to be there" for students.

"They believe that I care about what I'm teaching," Hayes said. "I think that helps students stay engaged in class."



Danny Hayes. Photo credit: Madeleine Cook, GW Hatchet Photographer

Spotlight on Faculty

Faculty Awards & Fellowships

A special congratulations to the following Department of Political Science faculty members who have been honored with prestigious awards this year.

Steve Balla: Fulbright Fellowship, Nankai University (Tianjin, China)

Alex Downes: 2016 Emerging Scholar Award, International Studies Association, International Security Studies Section

Henry Farrell: Newly admitted as member of the Council on Foreign Relations

Harvey Feigenbaum: Robert Schuman Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for advanced Studies of the European University Institute in Fiesole, Italy

Henry Hale: Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship at the National Endowment for Democracy (March-July 2016)

Marc Lynch: Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Mike Miller: CCAS Research Chair

Harris Mylonas: OVPR Early Career Scholar Award, Office of the Vice President for Research, GWU

Elizabeth Saunders: Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship, Council on Foreign Relations, 2015-2016

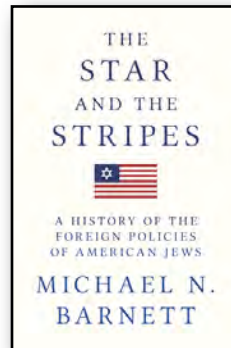
John Sides: CCAS Research Chair

Caitlin Talmadge: Smith Richardson Foundation Junior Faculty Fellowship for 2016-2018

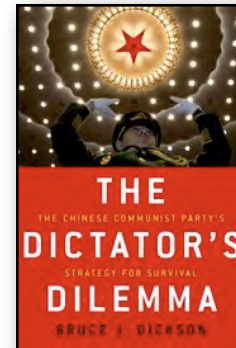
Faculty Publications



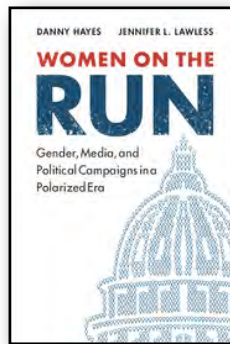
Celeste Arrington. *Accidental Activists: Victim Movements and Government Accountability in Japan and South Korea* (Cornell University Press, 2016)



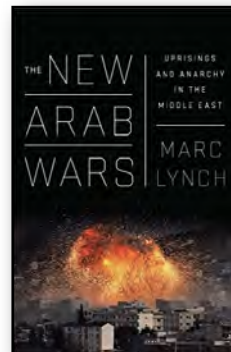
Michael Barnett. *The Star and the Stripes: A History of the Foreign Policies of American Jews* (Princeton University Press, 2016)



Bruce Dickson. *The Dictator's Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party's Strategy for Survival* (Oxford University Press, 2016)



Danny Hayes (co-author). *Women on the Run: Gender, Media, and Political Campaigns in a Polarized Era* (Cambridge University Press, 2016)



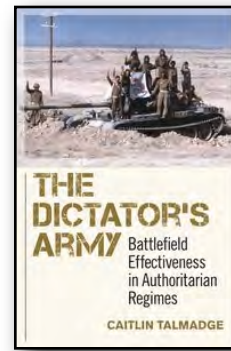
Lynch, Mark. *The New Arab Wars: Uprising and Anarchy in the Middle East* (Public Affairs, 2016)



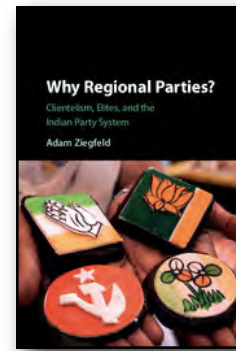
David Shambaugh. *China's Future* (Polity Press, 2016)



Robert Stoker, et al. *Urban Neighborhoods in a New Era* (University of Chicago Press, 2015)



Caitlin Talmadge. *The Dictator's Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes* (Cornell University Press, 2015)



Adam Ziegfeld. *Why Regional Parties? Clientelism, Elites, and the Indian Party System* (Cambridge University Press, 2016)



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Celebrating Commencement Congratulations, 2016 Graduates!

The Department of Political Science is incredibly proud of the 2016 graduating seniors and can't wait to find out what they accomplish next!

Six students won Department of Political Science prizes, which were presented at the annual Political Science Commencement Celebration on May 14th. The John A. Morgan Prize, which honors a top graduating senior who plans to study law, was received by **Benjamin Helfand**. The Joshua Evans III Prize, given to the top graduating seniors in the Department of Political Science who are involved in campus and community activities, was awarded to **Olivia Barrow, Abigail Lavine, Jonah Lewis, and Michael Sorensen**. The Lee Sigelman Prize, awarded to a top graduating senior in the Department of Political Science who is going on to receive a PhD in political science, was received by **Joshua Schwartz**.

All photos were taken at the Department of Political Science's Annual Commencement Celebration on May 14, 2016, which preceded the graduation ceremony.



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Bob Blaemire, BA '71, MA '75, is currently consulting with Catalist and DSPolitical, two firms working in Democratic and progressive politics. He is also currently writing a biography of former U.S. Senator Birch Bayh (D-IN), who he began working for as a student at GW.

Jonathan Plotkin, BA '76, is a nationally published political cartoonist and illustrator. His studies at GW prepared him to dissect politics and the human condition through art. Check out his work at Spontoonist.com.

Narciso Castaneda, BA '81, is currently ambassador of the Philippines to the Sultanate of Oman.

Bryan Tramont, BA '89 and managing partner at Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP, has been named one of the Top Ten: 2016 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers.

Anthony Arcieri, BA '97, is director of undergraduate career advising and programming in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Danny Rouhier, BA '01, hosts the *Grant & Danny Show* on 106.7 The Fan in Washington, D.C. every weekday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. He also continues to perform standup comedy at venues locally and around the country.

Elizabeth Vartkessian, BA '03, was one of ten inaugural winners of the J.M.K. Innovation Prize for her work in founding ARC, Inc. ARC, Inc. provides comprehensive and accurate life history investigation to decision-makers to inform the fates of those facing the most severe penalties.

David Earnest, PhD '04, published his latest book, *Massively Parallel Globalization: Explorations in Self-Organization and World Politics* (SUNY Press), in June 2015. He just received notification of his promotion to full professor, effective July 2016.

Dan LeClair, BA '05, is serving as director of development for the international non-profit 1% for the Planet. LeClair is based out of Burlington, VT and oversees the organization's local, national, and global development efforts.

Will Shaw, BA '08, started an e-commerce company called Giftie.com, a customizable gift box site that aims to modernize the gifting industry away from traditional gift baskets.

Gary Kraiss, BA '09, was elected chairperson of the District of Columbia Republican Committee for Ward 2 with 88.89% of the vote on June 14, 2016.

Tamara O'Neil, BA '11, MA '13, is now serving as Executive Director, Principal and Major Gifts at the American Red Cross.

Craig Kauffman, PhD '12, is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Oregon. His book, *Grassroots Global Governance: Local Watershed Management Experiments and the Evolution of Sustainable Development*, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

Ian Crueldad, BA '15, is the founder and CEO of Internpub.com, an online platform where interns and students can rate and review their internships. He was able to receive investments before graduating and the website now has thousands of internship ratings.

Emily Rooney, BA '15, is a legislative policy analyst at the New York City Council, for the Transportation Committee and the Aging Committee.

Check out the department's alumni webpage for more News & Notes: politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/class-notes

Have news to share? Send us a sentence or two telling us about your recent academic or professional accomplishments to polsci@gwu.edu and include "Class Note" and your degree/year in the subject of the email.



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2115 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
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