

Department of Political Science Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1 A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

2-3 CELEBRATING COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations, 2017
Graduates!

4-5 SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Eleven Undergraduates Win
Department Awards

Undergraduate Students
Placed in Prominent
Internships

PhD Students Receive
Prestigious Grants and
Fellowships for Upcoming
2017-2018 Year

Spring 2017 Faculty
Accolades

6 ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

7 THANKS TO OUR DONORS



A Note from the Chair

The end of the academic year is best symbolized by the graduation ceremonies in May. For those who graduated, May was not just the end of the academic year but also the end of their time at GW. It was a pleasure to welcome parents, friends and families who came to Foggy Bottom to help celebrate this momentous occasion.

Many of those graduating came to GW specifically to study political science. Political science is the largest major at GW: we have over 650 majors, including the 265 graduating seniors who are now moving on but will be replaced by new students who will declare political science as their major next year.

At the graduate level, 13 PhD students successfully defended their dissertations and completed their programs during this academic year. Many of them participated in the CCAS hooding ceremony; a separate graduation ceremony for doctoral students. One of our recent graduates (Chunhua Chen, pictured here) was not able to be in D.C. for the graduation ceremony, so Harris Mylonas and I did an impromptu hooding ceremony with her the week before. It was an unorthodox but certainly memorable occasion.

There is no better place to study political science than the political capital of the United States. Whether students are interested in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, or political theory, they are able to select from a wide range of classes taught by prominent and influential scholars. For many of our students, D.C. also offers jobs and internships that help them integrate what they learn in the classroom with work experience in government, think tanks, consulting firms, non-profits, international organizations, and other places.

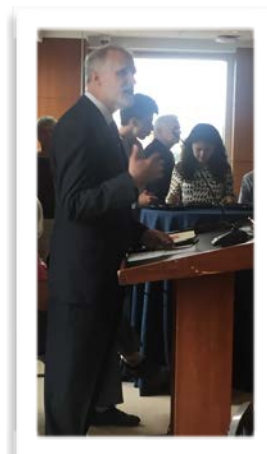
In the years ahead, we hope that our grads will find that their political science degree at GW prepared them well for what some people outside the ivory tower call the real world. Not just because they learned facts and figures, names and dates, but because they learned how to analyze and interpret the new information they encounter.

Education is like time-release medicine: they may not feel its effects immediately, but we hope that they will appreciate its benefits for years to come!

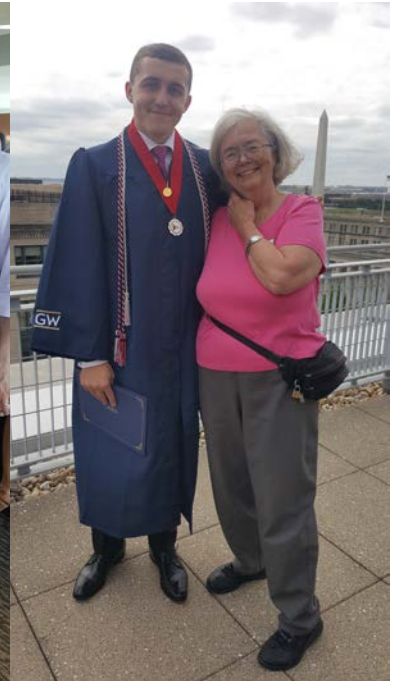
-Bruce Dickson, Department Chair



Professors Bruce Dickson and Harris Mylonas celebrate new PhD graduate Chunhua Chen at her doctor hooding in May. Professors Dickson and Mylonas served on Chen's doctoral dissertation committee during her studies at GW.



Department Chair Bruce Dickson announces award winners at the Department of Political Science's Annual Commencement Celebration on May 20, 2017.



Celebrating Commencement

Congratulations, 2017 Graduates!

The Department of Political Science is incredibly proud of the 2017 graduating seniors and can't wait to hear about what they accomplish next!

Photos were taken at the Department of Political Science's Annual Commencement Celebration on May 20, 2017, or were provided by our graduates from events on graduation day.





Scholarly Achievements

Eleven Undergraduates Win Department Awards

As we celebrate spring graduation, the Department of Political Science would like to extend a special congratulations to our 2017 prize winners. These students each earned an overall GPA of 3.8 or higher and were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements at the department’s commencement celebration before the graduation ceremony on May 20, 2017.



*L to R: Prize winners
Emma Zimmerman,
Kayley Deaton,
Jonathan Schembor and
Joseph Sitzmann.*

John A. Morgan Prize <i>honors top graduating seniors who plan to study law</i>	Lee Sigelman Prize <i>awarded to a top graduating senior in the department planning to enter a Ph.D. program</i>	Howard C. Sacks Prize <i>awarded to a graduate who has demonstrated achievement in the study of Far Eastern Affairs</i>	Joshua Evans III Prize <i>given to top graduates who have excelled in the social and political sciences and have showed promise of that ability in good citizenship</i>
Zeinab Bakillah	Ben Goehring	Moshe Pasternak	Gabriel Bravo
Samuel Nyitray			Logan Davis
Joseph Sitzmann			Kayley Deaton
			Jonathan Schembor
			Bridget Smith
			Emma Zimmerman

Scholarly Achievements

Undergraduate Students Placed in Prominent Internships

This past spring semester, 52 political science undergraduate students completed internships for degree credit. Here is an impressive sampling of the places our students interned in Washington, D.C. and New York City:

- ◆ Freedom House
- ◆ The Roosevelt Institute
- ◆ American Enterprise Institute
- ◆ Human Rights Campaign
- ◆ U.S. Department of Justice
- ◆ The Atlantic Council
- ◆ U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- ◆ U.S. House of Representatives
- ◆ U.S. Senate
- ◆ The Heritage Foundation
- ◆ Cook Political Report
- ◆ Refugees International

Scholarly Achievements

PhD Students Receive Prestigious Grants and Fellowships for Upcoming 2017-2018 Year

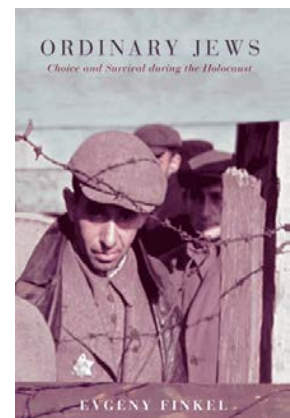
The Department of Political Science is proud to recognize our students who have been awarded grants and fellowships to continue their research in the upcoming academic year:

- ◆ **See-Won Byun**, PhD '17, will be a visiting assistant professor of politics at Bates College beginning in the fall.
- ◆ **Jennifer Doherty** has been awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant for fieldwork in Uganda.
- ◆ **Samuel Frantz** was awarded an American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship for his upcoming research in India.
- ◆ **Lillian Frost** has received a research grant from the Institute for Middle East Studies at GW to do archival research at the British National Archives and conduct interviews in Lebanon.
- ◆ **Jangai Jap** has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Program Fellowship.
- ◆ **Barnett Koven**, PhD '17, is now senior researcher at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland.
- ◆ **Fabiana Perera** has been awarded a Rosenthal Fellowship as well as funding from Columbia University's Women in Energy program for summer 2018.
- ◆ **Alexander Reisenbichler** will begin a tenure-track position as assistant professor in West European politics at the University of Toronto at Mississauga in fall 2017.
- ◆ **Annelle Sheline** will be director of the Undergraduate Scholars Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs at GW.
- ◆ **Steven Schaaf** has been awarded a Boren Fellowship for fieldwork in Jordan.

Scholarly Achievements

Spring 2017 Faculty Accolades

- ◆ **Bruce Dickson** has won the 2016 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title for his book *The Dictator's Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party's Strategy for Survival*.
- ◆ **Evgeny Finkel** published his new book, *Ordinary Jews: Choice and Survival during the Holocaust* (Princeton University Press) in March 2017.
- ◆ **Martha Finnemore** is the 2017 recipient of the J. Ann Tickner Award from the International Studies Association.
- ◆ **Charles Glaser** has been selected as the winner of the Distinguished Scholar Award of the International Security Studies section of the International Studies Association.
- ◆ **Marc Lynch** has been awarded an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.
- ◆ **Henry Nau** has received the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, the highest award given by the Japanese government to civilians other than political leaders.
- ◆ **Caitlin Talmadge** won the Early Career Scholar Award from the GW Office of the Vice President for Research. Her book *The Dictator's Army* was selected as the Best Book of the Year by the International Security Studies section of the International Studies Association, and also as one of the Best Books of 2016 by *Foreign Affairs*.
- ◆ **David Shambaugh's** book *China's Future* has been named one the Best Books in Politics and Current Affairs 2016 by *The Economist*.



Prof. Evgeny Finkel's
new book, 2017

*Stay tuned for even more political science faculty news in our fall 2017 newsletter,
including an introduction of our new professors!*



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ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Karin Pedrick, BA '67, is writing a book entitled *Inside Affirmative Action: An Executive Order that Transformed America's Workforce*, about a program enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor where she worked for most of her career in the government.

Richard Harless, MA '71, worked for 27 years as a teacher, counselor, and coach, and for four years as a legislative assistant in the Virginia General Assembly before earning an MA and PhD in American history at George Mason University. He is currently a history professor.

Larry Schwartz, BA '74, MA '77, is a career foreign service officer. He is the U.S. State Department's acting principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.

Christopher Hawthorne, BA '84, is happy to report that his daughter Emily graduated from GW's Columbian College in 2015 and his son James is studying at GW's Elliott School (class of 2019).

Colonel David Oeschger, BA '91, is on his 27th year in the Army and is currently the director of the Army's Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) caring for 28,000 seriously wounded, ill, or injured soldiers/veterans.

David Brunori, MA '95, has recently become a partner in the D.C. office of Quarles and Brady LLP. His practice centers on state and local tax and regulatory matters. He continues to teach in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

Hilary Brandt, MA '96, is now senior advisor at the Diplomacy Center, U.S. Department of State. Currently under construction, the Diplomacy Center will be the nation's first museum and education center dedicated to telling the story of American diplomacy.

David Holt, BA '01, a state senator in Oklahoma, announced his candidacy for mayor of Oklahoma City. His campaign web site is holtformayor.com.

Ryan Davis, BA '07, recently was promoted to major in the U.S. Air Force, effective Feb 1, 2017. He is currently stationed at the Pentagon and will be moving to Florida in summer 2017. He commissioned through Air Force ROTC while at GW.

Elliot Bell-Krasner, BA '08, was promoted to program manager at the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), where he has worked since March 2013.

Sam Leverenz, BA '10, and **Allison Rohde**, BA '12, were married on May 20 in Key West, FL. Allie and Sam met on a GW political science short-term abroad program focusing on Central European politics led by Professor Sharon Wolchik.

Jason Lifton, BA '11, and his wife **Jennifer Lifton**, PhD '10, had a baby girl, Nell Elizabeth Lifton, on March 5, 2017, at GW Hospital.

Margaret Walrod, BA '12, is working for the U.S. Department of State while completing a graduate degree in International Studies. Come September, she will pursue intensive Urdu studies as a Boren Fellow in Lucknow, India.

Hardy Farrow, BA '13, was featured in the highly regarded *Forbes* "30 Under 30" list for his work starting the nonprofit organization Let's Innovate Through Education (LITE).

Ajay Verghese, PhD '13, is an assistant professor of political science at the University of California, Riverside. During the 2017-18 academic year, he will be a Fulbright scholar to India.

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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Thanks to Our Donors

The Department of Political Science would like to gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors who made a gift to the department between January 1, 2016 and May 17, 2017. Your gifts are used to help us support undergraduate engagement, graduate student training and research, and faculty scholarship. We couldn't have done any of this without you. Thank you!

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- Mail your check, made out to The George Washington University and with "Department of Political Science" in the memo line, to the University at 2033 K Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20052
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