A Distinguished Career

Hal Wolman Retires

After 14 years of teaching at GW, Professor Hal Wolman has announced his retirement from the Department of Political Science. Wolman, who was instrumental in building the George Washington Institute of Public Policy (GWIPP), will be dearly missed by his colleagues and former students.

Wolman came to GW as a seasoned professor and political scientist. Before arriving at the university, he was a professor in the Political Science Department at Wayne State University in Detroit for nine years from 1986 to 1997. He then moved on to become the director of the public policy program at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County from 1997 to 2000.

Wolman held many positions in government and public affairs. He served as a legislative assistant to Senator Adlai Stevenson (D-IL) from 1972 to 1976, was staff director of the House Subcommittee on the Cities, and served as research director of the White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development. From 1978 to 1984, he was a Senior Research Associate in public finance at the Urban Institute. Wolman also spent several years doing research in England.

In 2000, he was hired to direct GWIPP with tenure in the Political Science Department. Wolman says that being able to set up and build GWIPP from scratch was one of the best experiences he had at GW and is one of his proudest accomplishments from his time here. However, Wolman also greatly enjoyed working on research projects with fellow faculty members. He particularly notes working with Eric Lawrence and Bob Stoker on projects related to the relationship of public opinion, issue framing, and urban policy. Many faculty in the Department have fond memories of working with Wolman and greatly value his contributions to both their individual research and the quality of research on public policy at GW.

As Professor Steve Balla explains, “Hal has immeasurably improved the quality of research on politics and public policy here at GW. This is impressive because these areas were already strengths when Hal arrived...Everyone who has attended a job talk or seminar presentation knows that some of the best, toughest questioning invariably came from Hal. Hal's comments on my own research have definitely sharpened my own thinking, analysis, and writing.”

While Wolman will miss working with fellow faculty when he retires, he states that he will most miss working with PhD students on their dissertations. He is, however, looking forward to having more free time and plans to spend his retirement researching, traveling, and reading.

On April 29, 2014, the Department hosted a retirement party for Wolman in the Lee Sigelman Seminar Room. Colleagues, friends, and family attended to congratulate him on his distinguished career and to share memories of working with him. The Department would like to thank Hal for his years of service to the university and to the field of political science and we will look forward to his visits to campus!
**Engaged Students**

**Department and GW Career Center Host Capitol Hill Internship Event**

The Department of Political Science has about 100 students enrolled in internships every year. On March 31, the Department and GW’s Center for Career Services hosted an internship lunch for Political Science faculty and students to draw connections between off-campus internship experiences and classroom learning.

At the lunch, Professors Sarah Binder and John Sides met with students who are interning on Capitol Hill this year and worked to connect the students’ experiences with lessons discussed in American and legislative politics courses.

After the event, Sides noted, “the students’ comments revealed how their internships had given them a complex and nuanced view of legislative politics.” Binder agreed and reflected that “the internship lunch was a great opportunity for me and John to learn from our students’ experiences and to help them to connect the dots between what we teach in political science and what they are learning first hand on the Hill.”

In addition to discussions with Binder and Sides, students also answered questions about career development and decision-making posed by Anne Scammon, Managing Director of Curricular & Strategic Initiatives at the Center for Career Services. Scammon thought the event was a great success, explaining that the students “were eager to share their Hill experiences and they discussed their observations and learning as a result of the internships...I believe the students appreciated the forum to reflect on their experiences and to share their insights with their professors and fellow students.”

One of the pillars of GW’s new strategic plan is citizenship and leadership. The plan states: “Democracy requires an informed population capable of understanding the complex and evolving issues confronting us. This is one of the most important reasons for GW to offer a vigorous liberal arts education. Our institution has long given students access to information and skills they require to become informed citizens. Today, our university’s aspirations extend further.” One way that this is manifest is through the internships that students hold. The internship lunch served as a step toward fulfilling GW’s strategic plan’s commitment “to create structures and programs that help our students reflect on how their lives inside and outside the classroom inform each other.”

The internship lunch could be the first of many such events at GW. Scammon explained, “This program was a unique collaboration between an academic department and the GW Center for Career Services, and we hope to plan for similar initiatives with Political Science and other departments in the fall.”

**Internship Spotlight**

**Senior Gains Policy Experience at AARP Internship**

Danica Brown, a senior Political Science major, reflects on her Spring 2014 internship with the AARP Office of Policy Integration.

I came to AARP hoping to be in a place where I could learn about as many facets of the health care industry as I could in a short amount of time. I wanted to work for a policy organization that had a solid member base and was responsive to the direct needs of their constituents. I also wanted to be a part of an organization that not only was a producer of quality research, but solicited outside experts to enhance their policy views because often times you get biased information because of political ideology.

My internship experience has provided me with everything I sought out to gain and more. My day-to-day tasks are writing briefs on recent health articles related to the 50+ population that come out in publications like Health Affairs and Kaiser Family Foundation. I scan for news articles from the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times every other morning, and I do research on various issues related to Long Term Care, Technology and Aging, and Developing Livable communities.

I’ve enjoyed my time here because I am not always chained to my desk. I get to attend meetings around town at Brookings, briefings on Capitol Hill, and AARP attracts phenomenal guest speakers from various career paths. During these meetings, I connect with people in my industry who could be future contacts. Another reason why I like this organization is because we work on a multitude of issues, basically anything that can improve the lives of 50+ Americans. We conduct research, talk to members, and advocate for them at the state and federal level.

My most interesting experience so far has been meeting members of AARP’s National Policy Council. They are the organization’s largest advising board, made up of phenomenal people who have made significant changes to enhance the lives of 50+ Americans through policy creation, technological innovation, and legal advocacy. Many of them are older, so the wealth of knowledge they’ve shared with me is abundant and they have marvelous stories about the incubation stages of drafting Medicaid reform legislation and arguing with politicians. At the end of Day 1, I was shocked because many of the members wanted to sit at my table and hear my perspectives about our political system, the economy, and health system because I was the youngest one in the room—literally.
Graduate Student Conducts Fieldwork in Chile

PhD candidate Kelly Bauer shares her experiences in Chile.

From September 2012 to December 2013, I lived in Temuco, Chile to conduct dissertation fieldwork with the support of the Fulbright and Inter-American Foundations. Temuco is the regional capital of the Araucanía region in central southern Chile and the center of mobilization by the Mapuche indigenous community. There is significant tension; in recent years alone, the state has charged numerous activists with terrorism, Mapuche prisoners went on an 82-day hunger strike, and numerous international organizations have strongly condemned Chile’s treatment of indigenous children, detainees, and elderly.

My research explores the causes of this tension, through the lens of land policy. To be eligible, communities must have documentation that the state formally recognized their land as indigenous in the late 19th and early 20th century, and prove that the community has since lost that land. Since 1993, Chile has purchased 499 plots of land for indigenous communities, totaling 137,000 hectares and a total investment of $362m (USD 2008).

Yet, this policy has been at the center of Mapuche mobilization and corruption charges.

Scholarly Achievements

Graduate Student Accomplishments

During the Spring 2014 semester, many students in our PhD program were awarded prestigious grants, fellowships, and awards to further their research all over the country and the world. Congratulations to all!

- Jessica Anderson received a 2014 National Security Education Program David L. Boren Fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Kenya next year.
- Lisel Hintz received an Institute of Turkish Studies Fellowship which will support her as she writes her dissertation during the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Michelle Jurkovich will be joining the Watson Institute at Brown University in Fall 2014 for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship.
- Barnett Koven received an honorable mention for his application to the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program.
- Julia MacDonald won the Stanton Pre-doctoral Nuclear Fellowship at MIT for the 2014-2015 academic year. Julia was also selected for the German Marshall Fund’s Young Strategists Forum in Japan in February 2014.
- Alyx Mark won the Philip Dearborn Fellowship Award from The Economic Club of Washington.
- Dorothy Ohl has received a Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic this summer and a David L. Boren Fellowship to conduct dissertation research.
- Fabiana Perera has been accepted as an inaugural fellow with the Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship through Humanity in Action.
- Alex Reisenbichler won the German Academic Exchange Service/ American Institute for Contemporary German Studies Fellowship for summer 2014 and a one-year Berlin Fellowship for Advanced German and European Studies at the Free University Berlin. To support his dissertation research, he was awarded a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy and the Robert K. Merton Award.
- Jackie Schneider won the ISA’s Best Graduate Student Paper award for a paper she presented at the ISSS-ISA conference, “Cyber and the Security Dilemma: A China-United States Case Study.”

One of the most rewarding parts of my research was conducting interviews with a wide variety of people; I spent half of my time in heels in government offices and half in hiking boots visiting indigenous communities, hoping it wouldn’t rain. Lots of foreign researchers have explored the tension between the Mapuche community and Chilean state, and many in the region are tired of explaining why. By looking at one specific policy, however, people had plenty of stories to tell. The government office that processes the policy is usually blamed for controversy surrounding the policy and politicians and bureaucrats involved in all stages of the process were happy to explain how other offices thwarted their efforts to improve policy implementation. I was also interested in how indigenous communities navigated the policy, and spent hours navigating rural buses and dirt roads to arrive to communities in the Makewe region. Indigenous community leaders were happy to complain about how the government has responded to their demand, or explain why they were more successful than other community presidents.

Conducting this research also confirmed my thoughts about the importance of the political science discipline. Public policy has important implications for future political participation and I am increasingly convinced that the complications in policy implementation I studied hinder future indigenous engagement. Yet, there is very little analysis of local politics in Chile and, therefore, very little information or pressure to improve from outside the government. Political science is very new and primarily focuses on national politics. The first political science department in Temuco was created five years ago and is very committed to analysis of local politics; I am cautiously optimistic about the ability to improve state-indigenous relations by analyzing public policy.
Celebrating Commencement

Congratulations, 2014 Graduates!

The Department of Political Science is incredibly proud of our 2014 graduating seniors and can’t wait to find out what they accomplish next!

Four students won Department of Political Science prizes, which were presented at the annual Political Science commencement celebration on May 17th. Glen Forster and Allison Markowitz received the John A. Morgan Prize, which honors the top graduating seniors who plan to study law. The Joshua Evans III Prize, given to the top graduating seniors in the Department, was awarded to Malcolm Fouhy and Cory Trio.

Twenty members of the class of 2014 are members of the National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha. These members were honored at the annual ceremony on April 17. Pi Sigma Alpha is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States and has over 730 chapters around the country.

Our graduating seniors are going on to pursue many exciting opportunities as they complete their undergraduate careers. Several students report plans to continue their education, with many having received prestigious scholarships and fellowships. Some students will pursue master’s degrees at universities such as Emory, Northeastern, and Georgetown, while others are continuing their education here at GW in master’s and dual degree programs.

15 students reported that they are going on to study law at schools such as GW, Columbia, Wake Forest, Howard, Villanova, and the University of Pennsylvania. Other graduating students will participate in Teach for America, teach English overseas, or join the Peace Corps.

Many of our graduates will be entering the workforce. Future employers include Deloitte Consulting, Brookings Institute, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, Human Rights Campaign, New York County District Attorney’s Office, and many others. Congratulations to all our graduates and best of luck in all your future endeavors!

More photos of the Political Science commencement celebration are available on the Department’s Facebook page at facebook.com/GWPoliticalScience
Alumni Connections

Distinguished Alumni Host D.C. Political Science Alumni Event

Building off of the success of the Political Science Department’s Centennial Celebration in September 2013, alumni Bryan Tramont, BA ’89, Managing Partner of Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP, and Julie Silverbrook, BA ’09, Executive Director of The Constitutional Sources Project, hosted an event for Political Science alumni in the Washington, D.C. area.

Mr. Tramont opened his home to alumni from a range of class years, faculty, and top graduating students. In attendance were a number of lawyers, professors, non-profit executives, public policy professionals, researchers, Capitol Hill staffers, and government employees.

The group was eager to share their personal and professional experiences since graduating and to learn more about developments within the Department. Danny Hayes, a recent addition to the Political Science Department, impressed the group with an engaging presentation on the upcoming midterm elections. He left many of the alumni at the event wishing they had the opportunity to take a class from him while they were students! After Professor Hayes’s thought-provoking talk, Professor Wahlbeck informed the group that there were opportunities for alumni to audit courses within the Department — a prospect that was favorably received by those interested in reconnecting with the academic study of Political Science.

The overarching goal of the April Political Science Alumni in D.C. event was to create a community of Departmental alumni in the Washington, D.C. metro area. If you are interested in becoming involved in this alumni community or in hosting an event, please contact alumna Julie Silverbrook at Julie.Silverbrook@consource.org.

Helping San Francisco Youth

“Starting a new non-profit is not easy,” says Brian Gadsden, BA ’93. “I’ve seen many fail while trying to duplicate work that is already being done.” Gadsden knows something about how to make the non-profit life work; he founded the San Francisco, CA-based Urban Ed Academy (UEA), which celebrated its launch in summer 2013. Gadsden, who serves as UEA’s executive director, had been working toward that moment since 2010, when the organization began.

The Academy’s mission is to improve the quality of life in San Francisco’s communities of color by eliminating the achievement gap in education. UEA offers educational services that are designed to help third, fourth and fifth grade male students succeed academically. These services are geared towards helping these students become knowledgeable and productive citizens with the support of their parents, families, schools and communities.

“Too often, elementary school boys of color are on the losing side of an achievement gap that only seems to widen as their academic career progresses,” Gadsden explains. “Third, fourth and fifth grade is a critical age to begin teaching students the core academic knowledge, skills and habits that youth need to be successful in school.”

UEA believes that parental and community involvement is crucial to the students’ success. The staff works to ensure that students have grade-level reading and math skills, attend school, and receive emotional support.

As a result, mentoring is a big part of the organization’s structure. “UEA brings together men from all sectors to surround the boys with love, inspiration and support,” says Gadsden. “[It’s] especially rewarding to create a space for men of color to bring their full selves to this important work.”

Gadsden, a non-profit management consultant who holds a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University, has a deep passion for this line of work. While living in DC’s Shaw neighborhood, Gadsden started the GW Neighbors Project. “I wanted to connect other students and resources at GW to community-based organizations and schools in my neighborhood,” he explains. Thanks to Gadsden’s initiative, the Neighbors Project is now GW’s primary long-term volunteer placement program.

Gadsden has advice for those who dream of making a difference. “Find a need that you are passionate about,” he says. “Look for organizations that are already doing the work and begin working or volunteering for that organization. It’s important to connect with others who are in your same space and learn from them.” And if UEA’s mission speaks to you, Gadsden invites you to get in touch. “Give me a call!” he says. “I’m always happy to help a GW alum!” - Melissa Nyman, GW Alumni News
ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Marian Lee, BA ’76 published the children’s book *The Lioness of Brumley Hall and Her Most Unusual Grandchildren* under her pen name, Augusta Pearson Benners.

Judge Cheryl Nora Moss, BA ’89 is running for re-election to a 4th term on the bench as a District Court Judge in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Frank Eldridge Anderson, BA ’95 co-authored the children’s book *Jimi Wifi and the Train of Time*, which teaches how time was kept before digital clocks were invented.

Senator David Holt, BA ’01 was re-elected to a second four-year term in the Oklahoma Senate. He also managed the successful re-election of the Oklahoma City Mayor to an unprecedented fourth term.


Dan LeClair, BA ’05 has been named Director of Planned and Leadership Giving at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire.

Kathleen Johnson, BA ’07 is graduating this year from the SMU Dedman School of Law. In the fall, she will be an associate in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Amanda Ussak, BA ’10 completed a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Malaysia in 2013 and will be pursuing a Masters in International Policy at Stanford University this fall.

Enze Han, PhD ’10 published a book titled *Contestation and Adaptation: The Politics of National Identity in China*.

Lance Noble, PhD ’13 was named the Advisor and Special Assistant to British Columbia’s Investment and Trade Commissioner for Asia.

Check out the Department’s Alumni webpage for more News & Notes: [departments.columbian.gwu.edu/politicalscience/alumni](http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/politicalscience/alumni)

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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Thank you for your support!

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