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
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!

Scholarly Achievements [Undergraduate]

**Meet GW’s Incoming Student Association Leaders**

*Adapted from article written by Brittnya 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.

“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.”

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**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


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


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 Catalyst 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.


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.


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.
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, 2015 and December 31, 2015. 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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