A Note From The Chair

Fall is an exciting time to be on campus. New students are fresh with anticipation to begin their college experience. Continuing students are ready to begin another chapter of their college careers. Faculty prepare to teach a new crop of students. The department this fall welcomed many new undergraduates who plan to major in political science, looking forward to taking classes and experiencing Washington as a GW student. We welcomed new graduate students to our doctoral and masters’ program. And, we welcomed four new faculty: Eric Kramon, Corrine McConnaughy, Ismail White and Adam Ziegfeld.

We appreciate the gifts of friends and alumni who allow the department's faculty and students to pursue their goals. Your donations allow us to support undergraduates who participate in professional conferences and work with faculty on research projects. Your gifts also allow us to provide seed grants for graduate student research, which has led to two dissertation improvement grants from the National Science Foundation in the past year. The financial resources you provide also support faculty engagement. On behalf of my colleagues, thank you!

The year moves by quickly, of course. Soon enough, we’ll break for Thanksgiving and then the holidays. As we approach that season, we are thankful for our alumni and friends.

-Paul Wahlbeck, Department Chair
Engaged Students

Undergraduates Receive Luther Rice Research Fellowships

Luther Rice Undergraduate Research Fellowships are sponsored by the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences to promote discovery and inquiry-based education throughout the undergraduate experience at GW. The fellowships offer support for student research carried out under the guidance of a faculty member. This year, political science majors Jacqueline Sodano, '15, and Theodore Haines, '16, are conducting original research in collaboration with Professors Steven Balla and Sarah Binder, respectively. Sodano’s research focuses on the rulemaking process, more specifically, studying regulatory gridlock in executive branch agencies. Haines’ research is an analysis of the electoral strategies used by the conservative interest group Club for Growth, specifically looking at the contributions they make to Congressional candidates.

Sodano’s interest in her topic was sparked during Professor Balla’s pro-seminar course, Politics of Regulation. She had always been interested in regulatory processes, but this class prompted her to explore the topic in-depth and seek out more information about the reality of “ossification” in the rulemaking process. Professor Balla is thrilled to see the evolution of Sodano from student to researcher. He states, “It has been a rewarding experience for me as a faculty member to witness Jackie’s progression from a student in my class to a researcher who can (a) identify a gap in our understanding about the politics of regulation and (b) execute a project that fills in that gap.”

In The Classroom

Former Senate Parliamentarian Teaches Congressional Leadership Course

Being the official rule keeper for the United States Senate is not for the faint of heart. Knowing the elaborate procedures and rules of order that govern the nation’s legislature is a tall order in the first place—enforcing those rules on your own employers makes the job of Senate Parliamentarian a uniquely challenging position.

It should be no surprise then, that former Senate Parliamentarian Robert Dove found the chance to teach undergrads right here at GW a rewarding change of pace. Twice-appointed Senate Parliamentarian and twice-dismissed first by Majority Leader Robert Byrd in 1996 and later by Majority Leader Trent Lott in 2001, Dove left Capitol Hill for good and brought his wealth of knowledge and perspective to Foggy Bottom, where he joined the Political Science Department.

Then-Department Chair Chris Deering brought the former Parliamentarian into the department as an adjunct professor, where Dove’s direct teaching style and years of experience working for Congress engaged students from day one. “I got word that Bob was about to become available, he had an inside knowledge of Congress, with a PhD from Duke, and he is a real sweetheart of a guy—I knew our students would love the class.” Deering recalled. “I also knew the Congressional Professorship was available and I called [then-GW President] Steve Trachtenberg and we made it happen.”

Dove began teaching a department pro-seminar on “Congressional Leadership” after arriving in 2001. “I loved teaching undergrads. They are not yet cynical about politics and I find that refreshing. I think that Congress is the most misunderstood branch of government and I loved teaching about how it works.” Dove said “I was attracted [to GW] by the fact that GW students often had internships on the Hill and could bring their experiences into the classroom.” Department Chair Paul Wahlbeck agreed, saying “Our students are attracted to GW for many reasons, but one of the primary attractions is our location in the nation’s Capital. Bob Dove shared with students his insider knowledge of how work is done on Capitol Hill. His perspective was a perfect complement to our curriculum.”

Dove stepped down from teaching this past summer, after 13 years with the university. He remains involved with the downtown lobbying firm Patton Boggs, where he provides public policy and Congressional strategy advice to firm partners and clients.
**Graduate Student News**

**Ph.D. Graduate Wins Prestigious Dissertation Award**

A recent graduate of the political science Ph.D. program, Chris Mitchell, Ph.D. ’13, was awarded the 2014 Samuel Beer Prize for his dissertation, “Saving the Market From Itself: The Politics of Financial Intervention.” The Beer Prize, developed by the British Politics Group of the American Political Science Association, is awarded each year to the dissertation that best contributes to the understanding of British politics. Chris’s dissertation contrasts the way in which the financial crisis of 2008-2009 was handled in the liberal market economies of the United States and the United Kingdom and the coordinated market economy of Germany.

The Beer Prize committee applauded Chris’s dissertation, saying that “through its use of both quantitative evidence and case studies, [it] advances our understanding of the determinants of state response to economic crisis, and contributes to the literature on both comparative capitalism and multi-level governance showing how and why the British state response differed from another liberal system and from a corporatist system.”

The initial idea for this project was born as Chris was closely watching the beginning stages of the financial crisis unfold, especially in the United Kingdom. He explains, “I both had an interest in state bailouts dating from the 2001 U.S. airline bailout and an interest in financial markets from my time working in financial services. I had just recently finished my comprehensive exams, and it occurred to me that this would be an excellent subject for dissertation research.”

Chris encountered many challenges while conducting research and writing his dissertation. The most significant challenge, he says, was the need to incorporate breaking news into his project. Scandals in the financial world like the London Interbank Offered Rate—or LIBOR scandal—in 2012 and other events forced Chris to go back and revise chapters that he thought were already finished. When asked about a particularly exciting time in the research process, Chris explained, “The most satisfying part was interviewing senior policymakers who provided me with statements which supported my argument, especially when that interpretation didn’t necessarily cast them in a positive light.”

Chris hopes that those who read and study his dissertation will take away the knowledge that “the organization of financial actors, and determining who gets a seat at the table in crisis deliberations, matters much more than the party or ideology of politicians in shaping the generosity of state responses to crises.”

**Alumni Spotlight**

**Alumna Devoted To Public Service As Family Court Judge**

When Judge Cheryl Moss (née Nora), BA ’89, first arrived at GW from New Jersey in 1983, she knew she wanted to study American politics and government. Like many GW students—then and now—Cheryl worked and interned part-time when she wasn’t in class. Her interest in law led her to the prestigious downtown law firm of Stein, Mitchell & Mezines, where she found a mentor in Jacob A. Stein, LL.B ’48, firm partner, GW law graduate, and celebrated defense attorney who had, among other cases, worked on Watergate in the mid-1970s.

After earning her bachelor's in political science, Cheryl continued working for Stein, Mitchell & Mezines while she attended evening law school at The Catholic University of America. After receiving her J.D. from CUA, she clerked for the Honorable John H. Bayly, Jr. at the D.C. Superior Court, passed the Maryland bar in 1994 and the D.C. bar in 1995.

When Cheryl’s parents moved from their home in New Jersey to Nevada in 1994, she decided to follow them out west. Moss received her Nevada law license in 1997 and began practicing law in Las Vegas. With few contacts in the new state, Cheryl re-devoted herself to public service and was recognized by Clark County for her pro-bono work to benefit indigent clients.

By 2000, Cheryl was ready to run. “Government service” she points out “was in [my] blood.” Cheryl’s mother was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps, and chief of psychiatry at the Veterans Administration hospital first in New Jersey, later in Nevada. When Cheryl entered the race for family court in 2000, she faced a well-funded opponent who significantly outspent her before the election.

“Somehow, a sleeping giant awoke. The Filipinos [in the community] became more politically aware that one of their own was running for elected office,” Judge Moss recalls. Using the momentum created by Filipinos and other Asian groups, she won 67 percent of the vote in 2000, and went on to win re-election in 2002 and 2008. She consistently wins endorsements from area labor unions, senior citizen advocacy groups, and Hispanic and Latino organizations.

“Thanks to the invaluable and unrivaled education [I] received at GW, mentorships under a legendary jurist...a distinguished jurist...and the guidance of my late mother, I was prepared and convinced to take on challenges in the political arena and make a difference in Las Vegas,” Judge Moss said. She recently won a fourth term on the Family Court of Nevada’s Eighth Judicial District.
Spotlight on New Faculty

Corinne McConnaughy

Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2004

**What attracted you to GW?**
Politics, of course! There’s no better place to be for a political scientist who studies American politics than Washington, D.C.

**What are your first impressions of GW students?**
While research has kept me from having the chance to meet students in the classroom, the other interactions I’ve had have me excited for my courses next semester.

**What research projects are you currently working on?**
Currently I have a large scale project going with another new faculty member, Ismail White (who happens to also be my spouse). The project is about how ideas about race and gender shape American politics. Our evidence is showing that these ideas are far more influential on political decision-making than most scholarship currently suggests.

**Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?**
I spent much of my youth involved in theater, mostly musical theater. My favorite role was playing Sheila in A Chorus Line. I am still a huge theater fan, and the stage was great preparation for being at the front of a classroom.

Ismail White

Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2005

**What attracted you to GW?**
As someone who studies the politics of minority communities, the diversity of the D.C. area was a major draw for me. I am looking forward to opportunities to connect both my research and teaching with the political lessons embedded in this diverse environment. I was also drawn to GW by the energy of the department and the university. It’s a great place that seems on track to just keep getting even better.

**What are your first impressions of GW students?**
My students so far have made teaching lots of fun by how engaged they are in D.C. politics and by how bright and ambitious they are!

**What research projects are you currently working on?**
I am currently working on two large scale projects. One is with my colleague (and spouse) Corrine McConnaughy, which is an endeavor to understand how paying attention to the work of gender complicates and in some ways undermines what political scientists think we know about how race is used and operated in American politics. The other is a project focused on understanding how the political behavior of African Americans is shaped by black social networks. Both projects will include new studies run in the new political science lab that Dr. McConnaughy and I are setting up here at GW.

**Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?**
I grew up on a working farm in Louisiana. Ask me anything about cattle.

Faculty in the News

**The Monkey Cage Thrives With The Washington Post**

It’s been just over a year since The Washington Post acquired The Monkey Cage, an award-winning political blog and place “to think aloud” (as one of the site’s original founders put it), and the move is benefiting both the paper and the mission of the blog. “The visibility that The Post provides has helped expand our audience and has made publishing on The Monkey Cage more attractive to political scientists” said Professor John Sides, one of the leading authors of the blog.

The Monkey Cage, which draws its name from an H.L. Mencken quote (“Democracy is the art of running the circus from the monkey cage”), was a successful and well-liked blog among politicos before The Post took notice. The Week, in naming their 2010 Blog of the Year, noted “Sides had...also shown a certain bravery by asserting the right of academics to blog at a time when others have seen their university careers suffer for doing so...an invaluable resource not just for academics and political journalists but for all political junkies.”

By fall 2013, The Washington Post, which had been looking for a way to add academic voices to their columns, finalized the deal acquiring the blog. The Post gave the bloggers leeway to continue running The Monkey Cage as they saw fit, which was an influence on Sides and others’ decisions to move. Sides reflected that the move worked well for all concerned: “We have also seen more political scientists coming to us with relevant pieces based on their research. I hope that there is now a greater interest among academic political scientists in engaging a broader readership.” Looking ahead, he noted: “We are hoping to develop even more capacity for writing at the intersection of politics and political science. We also continue to seek ways to ‘professionalize’ the blog further by editing and refining our content. One of the challenges we’re trying to address is that it is hard for a small group of professors to run The Monkey Cage essentially in their spare time.”

GW’s political scientists, including Henry Farrell and Marc Lynch, regularly contribute to the blog. Other department faculty members have also participated, including Stephen Kaplan, Elizabeth Saunders, Bob Stoker and Caitlin Talmadge. “This blog provides an extremely important vehicle for disseminating the important academic work and insights from political science research to the public at large, policymakers, and journalists,” said Professor Brandon Bartels. “It’s a great resource we should take advantage of.”
**Spotlight on New Faculty**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eric Kramon</th>
<th>Adam Ziegfeld</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ph.D., University of California-Los Angeles, 2013</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2009</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What attracted you to GW?</strong></td>
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<td>I was attracted to GW because the political science faculty are working on a diverse set of topics using a range of research approaches. It felt like an interesting place to be, and the department seemed like a great place to work.</td>
<td>The political science department is really terrific. Particularly within my subfield, there are a lot of people interested in similar issues and parts of the world. Washington is also a great city.</td>
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<td><strong>What are your first impressions of GW students?</strong></td>
<td><strong>What are your first impressions of GW students?</strong></td>
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<td>I have really been enjoying getting to know the GW students. It has been fun working with students that are motivated and truly interested in the topics we teach.</td>
<td>My students are really engaged and incredibly curious about the world around them. They ask lots of questions, which keeps me on my toes.</td>
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<td><strong>What research projects are you currently working on?</strong></td>
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<td>I am working on a project about vote buying in Africa and its consequences for democracy and governance on the continent. I also have a project on electoral fraud and voter intimidation in Ghana, a project on informational barriers to electoral accountability in Benin and a project on the consequences of ethnic group segregation/integration on governance and public goods provision in Malawi.</td>
<td>At the moment, I’m working on revisions for my book, which looks at the success of regional political parties in India. Several years ago, while doing fieldwork in India, I was in a very remote village a few weeks before an election. I was waiting for a bus as a local communist politician was giving a campaign speech for people passing by. In his speech, he not so subtly implied that I was a CIA agent sent to spy on his party. It’s the only time I’ve ever been accused of being a spy.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?</strong></td>
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<td>I really like playing and watching soccer.</td>
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**Faculty Publications**

- **Robert Adcock. Liberalism and the Emergence of American Political Science: A Transatlantic Tale.** (Oxford University Press).
- **Eric Kramon Ph.D., University of California-Los Angeles, 2013.** Flawed Logics: Strategic Nuclear Arms Control from Truman to Obama. (Johns Hopkins University Press).
- **Henry Hale. Paternal Politics: Eurasian Regime Dynamics in Comparative Perspective.** (Cambridge University Press).
ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES


Erin (Morse) Biggs, B.A. ’03, was recently named office manager for the State of Colorado Public Defender.

The Honorable Isaac Borenstein (ret.), B.A. ’72, will be a visiting professor of law at Suffolk Law School in Boston for the 2014-2015 academic year.

David J. Klinger, Esq., B.A. ’74 is the managing partner at Gutterman, Markowitz & Klinger in Bridgewater, New Jersey. He has taught law courses at Montclair State University and for the New Jersey Bar.

Narciso T. Castaneda, B.A. ’81, is currently the ambassador of the Philippines to the Sultanate of Oman.

Rachel Paine Caufield, Ph.D. ’02, recently became the associate director for citizen engagement at the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement at Duke University.

Chris Crowley, B.A. ’90, recently made the promotion list of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Chris is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and member of the Army JAG Corps.

Andrew J. Drake, B.A. ’93, was assigned to serve as the G2 (assistant chief of staff for intelligence) for Marine Forces Pacific under Pacific Command in Hawaii in summer 2014.

David C. Earnest, Ph.D. ’04, was recently named the associate dean for graduate studies and research in the College of Arts & Letters at Old Dominion University.

John Holder, M.A. ’90, received a PhD in public policy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in December 2013.

Jonathon Lack, B.A. ’92, was appointed in 2013 as the family and juvenile court commissioner for the Thurston County Superior Court in Olympia, Wash.

Koryn Rubin, B.A. ’05, recently accepted the position of assistant director, federal affairs for the American Medical Association (AMA).

James Zarsadiaz, B.A. ’08, received his PhD in history from Northwestern University in June 2014. He is a tenure-track assistant professor of history at the University of San Francisco.

Check out the Department’s Alumni webpage for more News & Notes: 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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