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100th Anniversary Celebration

Department Celebrates 100 Years of History

On September 28, 2013, the Department of Political Science commemorated the 100th anniversary of its incorporation into the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences with a celebration during Alumni Weekend. The Department welcomed over 70 guests including political science alumni, current and former faculty, and current students. Attendees enjoyed remarks from Provost Steven Lerman, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ben Vinson III, Senior Vice Provost and former Department Chair Forrest Maltzman, and current Chair Paul Wahlbeck. During the celebration, Department of Political Science Alumni Awards were presented to five undergraduate alumni and one Ph.D. alumna who have used their GW political science degrees to achieve great success in their careers. One faculty member, Cynthia McClintock, said, “There is no greater pleasure for us professors than to have our students succeed. I was thrilled to see so many former students who had achieved a great deal in their lives and believed that the GWU Political Science Department had contributed to their successes. It was especially gratifying to hear their fond recollections of my courses.” See pages four and five for more information about the award winners.

Don’t forget to “Like” the Department on Facebook!
Engaged Students

Undergraduates Receive Luther Rice Research Fellowships

Luther Rice Undergraduate Research Fellowships are sponsored by the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and aim 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, two political science majors, senior Cory Trio and junior Sean O’Connell, have received Luther Rice Fellowships and are conducting original research in collaboration with Professor Danny Hayes. Trio is conducting a survey experiment to explore how the media’s framing of economic inequality influences public opinion toward this issue in Washington, D.C. O’Connell’s project examines how the media’s portrayal of the current immigration reform debate compares to that of the 2003-2007 debate on the same issue.

Trio’s interest in his topic was sparked by a proseminar course last spring taught by Ph.D. candidate Jake Haselswerdt. The course examined economic inequality in the United States as well as its relationship to the political system. Haselswerdt is thrilled that Trio is continuing the project he started in that class and tackling the important research question of how the American media frames issues of inequality. He explains, “Cory was an outstanding student in my class on economic inequality in the US. Economic inequality might be the most important issue facing the United States, particularly over the long term, and I developed this class in the hopes that I could encourage some bright GW students to do something about it.”

Growing up in California, O’Connell has realized the importance of the immigration issue to his home state and says, “being able to compare this immigration debate with the previous [debate] gives the analysis more depth and insight into the media and its influence on the political sphere.” Both O’Connell and Trio took courses with Professor Hayes that helped create the content at the center of their projects. Trio explains, “Professor Hayes was a great resource, guiding me to this topic, recommending readings, and offering valuable advice regarding my research design.” O’Connell adds that he greatly enjoyed Professor Hayes' lectures in his Media and Politics course and his enthusiasm for the topics discussed.

Trio credits his GW political science courses with preparing him for his research, saying “exploring the methods researchers in the field have used to tackle the often hard-to-measure questions faced by political scientists has been a great resource in designing my own project.” O’Connell says his political science courses have taught him to question the research he analyzed in class and develop his own questions to investigate.

Upon graduation, O’Connell plans to attend law school. Trio hopes to continue as a researcher and is currently exploring graduate programs as well as careers that incorporate research skills.

Conference Host

GW Hosts Annual International Studies Association Conference

On October 4-6, over 400 scholars and policymakers from around the world gathered at GW, which served as this year’s host for the sectional conference of the International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association and the International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association. Led by Conference Director, Professor James Lebovic, and his Conference Coordinator, Christina Caan, a senior Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science, the conference featured nearly 100 panels and roundtables on the theme, Bridging the Academic/Policy Divide. Over a dozen professors and graduate students from the Department of Political Science presented cutting-edge research on a diverse range of topics, from the effectiveness of foreign aid to the use of drone technology. A large number of the Department’s Ph.D. students also helped to organize and manage the three-day event. The conference featured an opening panel on the challenges of long-term planning in U.S. foreign policy with contributions by former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Esther Brimmer, the State Department’s former Director of Policy Planning Stephen D. Krasner, Ambassador Dennis Ross, and Professor James Goldgeier (who served as moderator).

The panel was followed by a welcome reception that was cosponsored by Women in International Security, Bridging the Gap, and the Political Science Department. Before dinner on Saturday, renowned journalist Marvin Kalb gave an address on his new book, The Road to War: Presidential Commitments Honored and Betrayed. According to Dr. Lebovic, “the conference not only provided researchers with a unique opportunity to share their work, but also discuss the challenges of translating security theories into policy recommendations and bringing policy lessons into scholarly analysis and debates.” He added, “Judging from the productive conversations, smiling faces, and full bellies, I’d say it was a great success.”
Spotlight on New Faculty

Yonatan Lupu
Ph.D., University of California-San Diego, 2012
What attracted you to GW?
The breadth and depth of our faculty, especially in international relations, was a big draw for me. On top of this, the department has a great reputation for collegiality, which I have already observed in my first semester here.

What is your first impression of GW/GW students?
So far, I am very impressed with how engaged in politics and knowledgeable our undergraduates are.

What research projects are you currently working on?
I’m working on several new projects. One of these examines the extent to which independent judiciaries can enforce commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Another analyzes which types of human rights abuses by governments can make terrorist activities more likely and which types of repressive tactics can reduce terrorism.

Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?
I’ve been to 41 countries. But who’s counting?

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Michael Miller
Ph.D., Princeton University, 2011
What attracted you to GW?
I was immediately struck by how friendly and engaging the atmosphere is at GW. Combining that with GW’s record of superb, policy-relevant research made it really appealing to me.

What is your first impression of GW students?
I’ve only taught graduate students so far, and I’ve been impressed by their diversity of backgrounds and inquisitiveness. These are students who really want to say something new and important about world politics, rather than use mathematical methods for their own sake.

What research projects are you currently working on?
I’m working on several projects concerning why many of the world’s autocracies adopt multiparty elections and what effect these elections have on policy-setting and democratic development. I’m also starting a book on democratization that looks at the triggering role of coups, wars, and surprise elections.

Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?
My birthday, May 14, is the same day as the scheduled opening of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Unfortunately, travel was slow in the 18th century and a quorum of delegates didn’t actually arrive until May 25.

---

Samuel Goldman
Ph.D., Harvard University, 2010
What attracted you to GW?
GW has one of the most exciting political science departments in the country. Although I was trained as a political theorist, I’ve been really impressed by the way that my colleagues use data-driven political science to consider real political problems—and how clearly they explain their findings to non-experts like me. I was also delighted to discover how well everyone gets along. I’ve always hoped to work in a happy department, and this is one.

What is your first impression of GW/GW students?
So far, I’ve only taught students in the Politics and Values Program. I’ve found them to be among the most energetic and exciting students I’ve known. P&V students have picked an intensive program, so they come to GW ready to work hard. I try to make the course worthy of their efforts.

What research projects are you currently working on?
I’m working a book about Christian Zionism in America. I’m trying to understand how American Christians, mostly Protestants, have fused ideas about American exceptionalism with support for a Jewish State in Palestine. Contrary to some accounts, this fusion wasn’t invented by the so-called Religious Right. In fact, its roots in American political and religious thought go all the way back to the Mayflower.

Can you give us a fun fact about yourself?
My birthday, May 14, is the same day as the scheduled opening of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Unfortunately, travel was slow in the 18th century and a quorum of delegates didn’t actually arrive until May 25.
100th Anniversary
Political Science Alumni Award Winners

Zsuzsa Cseregő
ESIA MA ’92, CCAS Ph.D. ’00
Zsuzsa Cseregő has received numerous awards, including the Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship from the European University Institute in Italy. After earning her Ph.D. from GW, she joined the Department as a faculty member to run the Women’s Leadership Program in US and International Politics. Currently, she is Associate Professor and Graduate Chair in the Political Studies Department at Queen’s University in Canada, and the President of the Association for the Study of Nationalities. Arriving in D.C. in 1987 as a political refugee from Romania, Cseregő was determined to continue her education. After learning GW provided tuition benefits to employees, she took a position with the Law Library. During one of her lunch breaks, she walked to the Elliott School to find out how she could sign up for courses.

One of Cseregő’s most memorable moments at GW was during a seminar on Eastern European politics in 1990 where the question of whether the end of Communist regimes might lead to violence anywhere in the region came up. As someone from the region, she passionately argued that it was ridiculous to predict violent conflict in Yugoslavia—in a state that had closer ties to the West and allowed more freedom of expression to its citizens than any state in the Soviet bloc.” A friend who argued on the other side of that discussion asked years later “whether I was still in the business of peace prediction in times of chaos.” Cseregő says she received invaluable support at GW. “I became quite thoroughly conditioned by what I learned here—in the way I set standards for myself and others for scholarship, writing, and mentoring.”

Hon. Andrew L. Dixon, III
CCAS BA ’92
Andrew Dixon serves as President-Elect of the Tallahassee Barristers Association and was appointed to his current position as an Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration in the Tallahassee Hearing Office in 2010. He decided to attend GW for its location in D.C. Dixon states “I had visited D.C. a lot as a kid and always enjoyed it and thought it would be a great place to go to school. In the end, I loved GW’s location right in the middle of the city and close to the National Mall.”

Like many GW students, some of Dixon’s finest memories revolve around D.C. including: nights spent at the Lincoln Memorial, walking by the Supreme Court and realizing that he wanted to be a lawyer, and graduating on the Ellipse. For Dixon the connection of his coursework and his interests formed one of the highlights of his GW years. He was able to study the inequities of funding for inner city school districts vs. their suburban counterparts. Dixon also credits Professor Emeritus John Morgan for inspiring him, “He was a charismatic older professor who made his classes on constitutional law so interesting that I forgot to take notes!”

The number one thing that Dixon credits GW and his Political Science education with is his sense of confidence. “I graduated from GW never again apologizing for who I am and knowing I was able to achieve something special.”

Hon. Joseph P. Farina
CCAS BA, ’67
Joseph Farina graduated from GW with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1967. He started his career in general civil practice, where his advocacy on behalf of his clients garnered him a reputation that resulted in his election as Mayor of Miami Shores, FL. He became a judge in 1979 and served until 2012. He supervised 123 judges, 15 magistrates, 20 hearing officers, and more than 500 employees in 10 locations.

Farina was elected President of the national Conference of Metropolitan Courts, where he served as national spokesperson for improvements. He sought to modernize US court systems working on behalf of the National Center for State Courts. In conjunction with the People to People Jurist initiative, Farina benchmarked, counseled, and consulted with fellow judges in Japan, South Korea and China. He remains active as an Alternative Dispute Resolution mediator and arbitrator with Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services and continues to mentor students.
### Julie Silverbrook  
**CCAS BA, ’09**

Julie Silverbrook earned her JD from the William & Mary Law School, where she was awarded the Thurgood Marshall Award and the National Association of Women Lawyers Award. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Constitutional Sources Project, a Washington, D.C. based non-profit. Silverbrook believes the GW Department of Political Science has a strategic advantage over programs at other schools because students at GW learn politics in the heart of the nation’s capital. “As students learn about the structures and institutions of government, they can walk out their front door and live the experience.” Silverbrook took advantage of these opportunities interning on Capitol Hill, at the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and for the Attorney General of Washington, D.C. In her junior year at GW, Silverbrook was awarded a Luther Rice Fellowship to explore the doctrinal development of the clear and present danger standard. She was able to travel across the country interviewing preeminent legal scholars such as Martin Redish of Northwestern Law, and Judge Hans A. Linde, a retired Oregon Supreme Court Judge. She went on to present her fellowship paper at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference; to which she would return as a law student to present another paper on the First Amendment. Silverbrook describes her fellowship experience as a life-changing “constitutional conversation,” which, in turn, inspired her to create for William & Mary Law School an award-winning constitutional literacy program called Constitutional Conversations. The program is now entering its fourth successful year.

Silverbrook credits GW and her political science degree with preparing her for the rigors of law school. She states, “students with a social science background generally adjust more quickly to the demands of large reading assignments, multiple writing assignments, and the pressure of constructing arguments drawing from law, philosophy, and public policy.”

### Bryan Tramont  
**CCAS BA ’89**

Bryan Tramont has served as Chief of Staff at the FCC and Senior Legal Advisor to three commissioners there and is currently the Managing Partner at Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP. Like many Colonials, the location of GW in the heart of D.C. was a large factor in Tramont’s college choice. He says, “I fell in love with Washington, D.C. during my high school ‘Close Up’ trip. As a suburban kid from St. Louis, I was awed and energized by this great city.” Tramont also credits the Admissions office for pulling him into GW, even going on to work for the Admissions himself. Tramont remains active at GW, serving on the National Council for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

Besides “Inside Politics” week for the College Republicans, some of the best experiences revolved around classes he took with Professors Cynthia McClintock, Jeff Henig, and Stephanie Larson. Tramont explains, “GW gave me the skills to develop strategic goals and to turn them into reality. So the GW Political Science education wasn’t just learning, it was doing; with the comfort of having the “training wheels” still on. GW gives its students the flexibility to seize opportunities to apply their knowledge, build organizations, and to succeed or fail. It provided a model not just for the college experience, but for life.”

### Senator Mark Warner  
**CCAS BA ’77, HON ’03**

Mark Warner came to The George Washington University for the ability to work and live in the Washington, D.C. area. “I chose GW because it gave me the opportunity to intern and work on Capitol Hill while I was in school,” said Warner. He also credits the Admissions officer he worked with, Ron Howard, for his enrolling at GW, stating that he “was great at helping me identify scholarship opportunities that ultimately enabled me to attend college.”

Once at GW, Warner wasted no time taking advantage of living and studying in Washington, D.C. He worked or interned on Capitol Hill all four years while an undergraduate, gaining the unique ability to study politics while experiencing it first-hand. Warner’s favorite courses at GW were taught by Professor Stephen Wayne. Warner states that one of the best parts about The George Washington University is that it “gives students the ability to experience reality versus theory, which is really unique”. He used these experiences and went on to become Governor of Virginia from 2002-2006, and most recently Senator Warner has established himself as a national leader after four years in the Senate, focusing on efforts to find bipartisan consensus to make government more efficient and to create balanced solutions to reduce the federal deficit.
Graduate Student Research
Ph.D. Candidate Wins Prestigious NSF Grant

Ph.D. candidate Alyx Mark was awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant this year for her research on understanding how low-income people interact with the legal system, and how legal aid (civil legal assistance or free legal services for the poor) can mitigate some of the inequalities in the legal system, through both the provision of legal help and by helping people learn how to solve future problems. Mark’s project is titled “Beyond Remedy: Does Civil Legal Assistance Matter for Democratic Governance?” and she has exciting plans for her grant funds.

Without this grant from the NSF, this project would be nearly impossible to accomplish on the scale Mark is hoping for. The grant will allow her to administer a panel study, which involves surveying people more than once over a long period of time. This is often difficult to do without monetary incentive. Mark states that her study specifically targets those of low socioeconomic status and that it is very hard to maintain a large sample of low income participants in a panel study. But, the ability to offer monetary incentive does make it easier. The project will also require Mark to travel to Baltimore and Philadelphia, where she will complete a large portion of the panel study. Mark hopes that by tracking people through their legal services experiences she can demonstrate how interactions with a legal services provider can engender confidence and knowledge to those seeking services. Mark states, “My research is informed by work in other policy areas which demonstrates how different interactions with institutional incumbents (social workers, welfare caseworkers, etc.) can lead to empowerment or disempowerment on the part of those who access the services.”

Coming up with the topic was a matter of conscience for Mark. She says, “I was interested in one line of research my first year in the Ph.D. program, and then I took a step back and thought to myself ‘who is going to be impacted by this work?’ When I couldn’t identify anyone outside of academia, I thought it would be important to pursue another topic that would be relevant both to political scientists and practitioners. I think as researchers we have a unique ability to connect our work to real world problems, and often miss out on opportunities to have a greater impact on the world around us.”

Faculty Publications


ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Alex Flores (BA '08) earned his J.D. from the University of New Mexico and was named one of New Mexico’s 40 Under 40 Award Honorees by Albuquerque Business First.

Matt Kernkraut (BA '02) was named the Associate Dean for External Relations at The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study of Harvard University.

Deanna Matheuszik (BA '94) earned a Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt University.

Diana Santillán (BA '94) is a Global Health Program Fellow, working as a Gender Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Population and Reproductive Health.

Greg Schiller (BA '00) is an Assistant State Attorney in Palm Beach County, Florida. He was awarded the Missing Children’s Protection Award by the U.S. Department of Justice and the John and Revé Walsh Award from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Joseph Ura (BA '01) (MA '02) was promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science with tenure at Texas A&M University.

Want to read more Alumni News and Notes? Check out the Department’s “Alumni” webpage: departments.columbian.gwu.edu/politicalscience/alumni

Have news to share? Send your news to polsci@gwu.edu and include “Class Note” and your degree/year in the subject of the email.

Thanks to Our Donors

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We very much appreciate your kindness and support for our various activities.

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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 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20052

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