



Department of Political Science Newsletter

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Alumni Spotlight

Nate Morris: One of *Fortune's* 2014 40 Under 40

Meet **Nate Morris, B.A. '03**, founder and CEO of Rubicon Global, an Atlanta-based start-up focused on waste management. A true 21st Century company, plans are in the works for an Uber-style app that will allow residential customers to schedule a time for trash pick-up, similar to how app users schedule Uber rides. In 2014, Morris was named one of *Fortune* magazine's 40 under 40.



Morris was attracted to GW because of its academic reputation and its location in the heart of Washington, D.C. He believed that GW would be the best place in the world to prepare himself for a future in public service and learn how to bring change to his home state of Kentucky and country.

Raised by a single mother and educated in the public school system in Kentucky, he recalls being honored to gain admission and attend a school that has educated some of the 20th century's greatest leaders. Thanks to a scholarship from the Scottish Rite, Morris was able to realize his dream and begin to pursue long-term goals.

When asked about his best memories of GW and how his experience at the university prepared him for life and a career, he recounted, "I loved living in D.C. and working at the White House as a college student. I was fortunate to witness historic events first hand and play a minor role as they unfolded. Personally, I made friendships that continue to enrich my life today. Living in a city like D.C. at 18 changes the way you think of yourself and the world. In addition, the people I met and had the opportunity to learn from made all the difference."

He continued, "I took a graduate course in the School of Political Management from former RNC Chairman Jack Oliver. During the 2004 presidential campaign, he served as an advisor and strategist for the Bush-Cheney campaign and as national finance vice-chairman for Bush-Cheney '04 and Victory 2004. What I learned in Jack's class about strategy and communication has been invaluable. Without his influence and mentoring, I might not have gone on to start my company, Rubicon Global. Jack was an early advisor and investor, and continues to guide me as we scale our business."

Current undergraduate advisor to GW Political Science students Dr. Susan Wiley was Morris' professor and advisor at GW and is someone that he thinks of as an extended part of his family today. Since meeting Professor Wiley during his second year at GW, she has helped him tremendously, encouraging him to think about his future and guiding him through professional and personal challenges.

Continued on next page.

*Alumni Spotlight, continued***Nate Morris: One of Fortune's 2014 40 Under 40**

Her dedication to teaching and her students is remarkable. Morris adds, "There are very few people in my life who have been as helpful to me as Professor Wiley. Without her help and guidance, I wouldn't have moved to China, attended graduate school or had the opportunity to found and serve as CEO of my company."

As for advice for GW students on how to make the most of their time at GW and how to prepare for the future? Morris advises to sleep very little, study, study, study and take every opportunity to utilize Washington to gain practical knowledge for your future.

*Young Alumni Spotlight***Jacob Emont: Alumnus Granted Prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship**

Jacob Emont, B.A. '15, is a recent George Washington University graduate and current Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University in Nevşehir, Turkey. According to the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships & Research at GW,

Jacob is one of just 10 GW students who received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Fulbright Program is an international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government for the purpose of fostering mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries throughout the world. Congratulations on your Fulbright from the GW Department of Political Science, Jacob!

**How does the program fit into your long-term study and/or career plans?**

JE: That's a tough question because I honestly don't know where I'll be in two years, let alone the "long-term," but the program allows me to pursue my international political interests while learning the language of a large and quickly developing country in a volatile region. I have also realized over the past few years that I really enjoy teaching so the program is giving me an opportunity to continue doing work that I love!



Jacob represents GW while hiking near to his home in Turkey

What drove you to apply for the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship?

JE: I have always wanted to have the chance to live and work abroad, particularly in a country with a rich history and interesting political landscape. Fulbright is a great opportunity to do just that, so I decided to give it a shot.

What interested you the most about teaching in Turkey?

JE: I was fortunate enough to spend two summers working as a counselor at Space Camp Turkey in Izmir, so I already knew that I loved Turkish people, food, and the country in general. Additionally, Fulbright ETAs in Turkey teach at the university level, and I was excited to work with older students preparing to use their English for their careers.

Did you complete any internships while a student and if yes, how have they related to your work in Turkey?

JE: During my time at GW I interned at a law firm with a privacy focus, a small nonprofit working to empower female entrepreneurs, and a foundation working to increase entrepreneurship and revolutionize philanthropy. None of my internship experiences scream "Fulbright in Turkey!" but all three of them helped me develop a variety of skills and made me realize that it's ok to give new things a try, even if they're not the exact things I had planned to do.

Do you have any advice for undergraduates hoping to apply to the program?

JE: Contact the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research! They are there to help you, and they are really good at their jobs!

In the Classroom

Presidential Pollster Mark Penn Teaches at GW This Fall

Our undergraduates have the opportunity this fall to learn from a presidential pollster.

Mark Penn, a former pollster to President Bill Clinton, is teaching “Interpreting and Strategizing with the Polls,” a special topics course open to political science undergraduates and students enrolled in the Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM).

The class focuses on crafting and analyzing public opinion surveys and devising political strategies based on the results.

GSPM Director Mark Kennedy says, “This course is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have direct exposure to, and learn from, one of the legends of political opinion surveys. We are grateful to Mark and his team for this opportunity.”

Mr. Penn has been a frequent guest speaker on campus and supplied the founding gift for the school’s Society of Presidential Pollsters, which examines the role of public opinion in shaping White House strategy by looking at the



work of those who have polled for a sitting president. Mr. Penn also has donated his papers from his White House tenure to the society.

“I’m looking forward to bringing polling into the classroom at GW,” he said. “I believe more students need to understand the use and abuse of polls within public policy and campaigns.”

Mr. Penn has polled internationally for more than 25 world leaders. He is the author of the 2007 *New York Times* best seller *Microtrends: The*

Small Forces Behind Tomorrow’s Big Changes and is a visiting lecturer at Harvard University, where he teaches public opinion.

“As a GSPM graduate, I understand that the students here are already industry professionals. They come here to gain the edge necessary to perform at the highest level,” Mr. Brown said. “With this course, it is our objective to offer insights and resources to give students a head start on this constantly evolving field.”

This article was originally published in GWToday, GW’s Official Online News Source, on August 31, 2015, Courtesy of GW’s Division of External Relations.

Faculty in the News

Forrest Maltzman Serves as Interim Provost

Forrest Maltzman, professor and former chair of political science, is currently serving as the interim successor to Provost Steven Lerman. Dr. Lerman announced that he will step down from his administrative role in December and join the faculty in the School of Engineering and Applied Science following a sabbatical. George Washington President Steven Knapp said he will work closely with Drs. Lerman and Maltzman this fall on the transition before launching a national search for Dr. Lerman’s permanent successor.

“Forrest Maltzman very effectively managed our last university-wide accreditation process and, after joining the provost’s office, played a key role in the development of our strategic plan,” Dr. Knapp said. “His appointment as interim provost will ensure that our implementation of the plan continues to advance through this interim period.”

Dr. Knapp went on to praise the accomplishments of Dr. Lerman, who has served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs since 2010.

Maltzman began his career at GW in 1993 as an Assistant Professor of political science, became a tenured member of the faculty in 1998, and served as chair of the Department of Political Science from 2008-2011. He joined the provost’s office as senior vice provost for academic affairs and planning in 2011. In this role, his responsibilities have included academic space planning for all GW campuses, overseeing enrollment management, and furthering the university’s cross-disciplinary initiatives.



Faculty in the News

Are Female Candidates Still Running Against Gender Bias?

Hillary Clinton's hairstyle. Sarah Palin's wardrobe. When female candidates run for office, the electoral focus invariably seems to fall on their appearance rather than their ideas and qualifications. It's a long-standing assumption that women battle fierce gender bias on the campaign trail—from the media, their opponents and even the voters themselves.

But what if that assumption is incorrect? What if the real hindrance to a woman's road to the White House isn't as much gender bias, but the perception of bias—and the impact that misbelief has on the process by which candidates emerge for office?

That's the idea proposed by **Danny Hayes**, associate professor of political science, in his upcoming book *Women on the Run: Gender, Media, and Political Campaigns in a Polarized Era* (Cambridge University Press), coauthored with America University Professor of Government Jennifer Lawless. Hayes, a former journalist and a regular contributor to *The Washington Post's* Monkey Cage blog, doesn't deny that sexism exists in the political arena. But he argues that the days when what a woman candidate wore mattered more than what she said are actually behind us.

"Candidates' gender plays a minimal role in the vast majority of U.S. elections," Hayes said. "Today, male and female candidates have few reasons to campaign differently, the media have little incentive to cover them differently and voters have minimal reason to evaluate them differently."

Instead, he maintains, it's the lingering notion that women candidates are besieged by bias—and the consequences of that belief within the political process—that truly impedes their electoral ambitions. In a campaign season that may yield a female president, Hayes explained that candidates like Clinton and Carly Fiorina face the same challenges on the road to the White House as male politicians.

When asked if sexism exists in politics, Hayes responded, "Let me be clear: We are not saying that sexism is a thing of the past. It certainly happens. And women are significantly underrepresented. They make up just 19 percent of Congress and fewer than 25 percent of state legislators. We've never had a female president. Our misperceptions about the bias against female candidates are fueled by a political discourse that overemphasizes the sexist experience that women indeed sometimes face. The media is enthusiastic in its coverage of sexism in politics. When we think back, it's easy to recall stories about Sarah Palin's \$150,000 wardrobe. But think of Palin's overall coverage. How much of it was really about her clothes? Or is that just what we remember?"

This article was originally written by John DiConsiglio courtesy of GW's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, November 11, 2015. (Photo: Logan Werlinger)



Faculty in the News

Faculty Research Wins Grant

Seven faculty won support for their project "Spheres of Influence and Regional Orders: Assessing Approaches for Responding to China's Rise." The award was made by the Defense Department's Minerva Initiative. The principal investigator is **Charles Glaser**, and his collaborators include **Alexander Downes, Caitlin Talmadge, Harris Mylonas, Stephen Kaplan, Michael Mochizuki, and Elizabeth Saunders**.

The Minerva Initiative seeks to use social science research to better understand areas of strategic importance to U.S. national security policy. This project will explore basic concepts: What is a sphere of influence? Via what mechanisms do military capabilities, military alliances and economic cooperation create a sphere of influence? The project also will explore means (military, international institutions, economic policy, diaspora relations) that a state can employ in support of a sphere of influence or a regional order, or both.

Major grants, like this, reflect the contribution that our faculty make to understanding social and political phenomenon. Graduate students and faculty receive substantial grant support for their research every year.

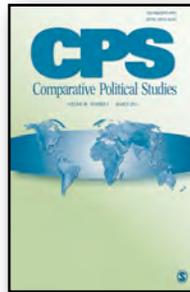
(Logo: Minerva Initiative, <http://minerva.dtic.mil/funded.html>)



Faculty Publications



Yonatan Lupu. "Legislative Veto Players and the Effects of International Human Rights Agreements" (*American Journal of Political Science*)



Henry Farrell. "The New Politics of Interdependence: Cross-National Layering in Trans-Atlantic Regulatory Disputes" (*Comparative Political Studies*)



Evgeny Finkel. "The Phoenix Effect of State Repression: Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust" (*American Political Science Review*)



Caitlin Talmadge. "When War Helps Civil-Military Relations: Prolonged Interstate Conflict and the Reduced Risk of Coup Attempts" (*Journal of Conflict Resolution*)



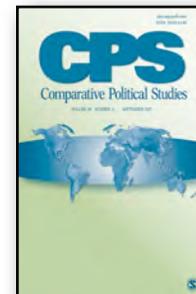
Ismail White. "Selling Out?: The Politics of Navigating Conflicts Between Racial Group Interest and Self-Interest" (*American Political Science Review*)



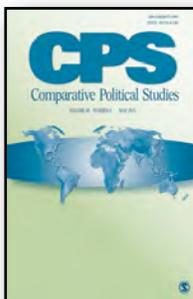
Henry Hale. *Patronal Politics: Eurasian Regime Dynamics in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press)



Charles Glaser. "A U.S.-China Grand Bargain? The Hard Choice Between Military Competition and Accommodation" (*International Security*)



Emmanuel Teitelbaum. "Ethnic Parties and Public Spending: New Theory and Evidence from the Indian States" (*Comparative Political Studies*)



Michael Miller. "Elections, Information, and Policy Responsiveness in Autocratic Regimes" (*Comparative Political Studies*)



Brandon Bartels. "The Nature of Legal Change on the U.S. Supreme Court: Jurisprudential Regimes Theory and Its Alternatives" (*American Journal of Political Science*)



Rachel Stein. "War and Revenge: Explaining Conflict Initiation by Democracies" (*American Political Science Review*)



Eric Grynaviski. *Constructive Illusions: Misperceiving the Origins of International Cooperation* (Cornell University Press)



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ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Joseph Farina, B.A. '67, is serving as a Florida Supreme Court Certified civil mediator and qualified arbitrator with JAMS in Miami, Florida. He was recently appointed vice-chair of the Miami-Dade County Court Capital Infrastructure Task Force.

Frank Sobolewski, B.A. '70, is now retired after teaching English, history, and U.S. government and politics at Northern Marianas College on Saipan. He is doing research on political issues for former Governor Juan N. Babauta of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Lloyd Winans, B.A. '83, joined Dentons (New York) as principal concentrating on cross border financial services with emphasis in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Steven Fujita, B.A. '88, *Toe Up to 10K*, his book about recovery from spinal cord injury, won the Gold Medal in the Reader's Favorite Book Awards in the non-fiction: inspirational. category He is currently working on a new novel.

Christopher Teal, M.A. '97, began his current assignment with the U.S. State Department in August 2014 as consul general for the U.S. Consulate in Nogales, Mexico. Prior diplomatic assignments include: Sri Lanka, Guadalajara, Lima, Santo Domingo, and Washington, D.C.

Adam Brandon, B.A. '00, MA '03, is president and CEO of FreedomWorks.

Michael Henrich, B.A. '06, joined Cox Media Group's WFXT-FOX25 News in Boston as a reporter and fill-in anchor, covering a wide range of topics and events on the weekday morning newscast.

Kristine Esposito, B.A. '07, and **Erik Telford**, B.A. '05, were married on October 31, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Davis, Ph.D. '10, is a faculty member at National Intelligence University in Washington, D.C., currently working on a book about child soldiering for Cambridge University Press.

Taylor Strosnider, B.A. '12, is finishing his final year in the JD/MBA program at Michigan State University. He recently had his third law review article accepted for publication addressing commercial aviation policy, and next semester will begin working at the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Alex Buffer, B.A. '14, works just blocks from GW campus at Edelman, the world's largest public relations agency. He currently sits with the firm's Data Insights & Analytics practice.

Daniel Egel-Weiss, B.A. '15, was accepted into the Northwestern University's Masters of Public Policy and Public Administration program. He served as legislative and communications director for Illinois State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (assistant majority leader).

Lisel Hintz, Ph.D. '15, is a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University's Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies. While there under the mentorship of Peter Katzenstein, she is finishing her book manuscript on national identity politics and foreign policy in Turkey.

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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The Department of Political Science would like to gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors who made a gift to the department between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 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 for your support!

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