

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

JULY 2009

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**MCCLINTOCK  
TESTIFIES** 2

**UNDERGRADU-  
ATE RESEARCH** 2

**NEW DEPART-  
MENT WEBSITE** 2

**BANNER YEAR  
FOR SCHOLARS** 3

**DEPARTMENT  
HOSTS CONFER-  
ENCE** 3

**UNDERGRAD  
MAGAZINE** 3

**PEOPLE** 4

**THANKS TO OUR  
CONTRIBUTORS** 5

## NEWS AND NOTES

- **Department ranks #1 nationally in Public Law programs**
- **Chad Rector published *Federations: Political Dynamics of Cooperation* with Cornell University Press.**
- **Martha Finnemore published "Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and Social Structure of Unipolarity" in *World Politics***

## GREETINGS FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE

During our department's reception this past May for graduating political science majors, a student approached me and thanked me for what he had learned in his political science classes. When the student noted that he now felt well-prepared for the real world, I asked him about his post-graduation plans. His response? "Look for a job." Although I wasn't sure whether he was serious or intending to be sarcastic, he reiterated that he really felt he learned a lot at GW. Fortunately, my colleagues and I were not being blamed for the global recession.

In many respects, his response was a relief. Although we clearly do not teach all of life's necessary skills, I am convinced that while studying politics, our students learn how to ask the right questions, how to reach answers, and how to think and write clearly about politics and the world around them.

In this newsletter, we highlight a few of the accomplishments of our students and alumni. The newsletter includes stories about a senior who

was invited to present her research at one of the country's most important political science conferences and the continued role of GW Discourse in encouraging student writing on public policy. We also highlight our faculty's engagement in scholarship and their public outreach through their expertise. A broad array of policymakers, the media, and informed citizens are paying attention to the scholarship of our faculty.

To be sure, our ability to accomplish as much as we do depends upon the willingness of our students and alumni to challenge us and each other every day. Learning at the college level is truly a collaborative enterprise. We always appreciate the gifts that sustain us, but the most important gift is one that you have already given: By choosing to study political science at GW or by trusting us with the education of your daughters and sons, you have made the political science department and the wider GW community a more vibrant and stimulating place. Thank you.

Forrest Maltzman, Professor and Chair

## UNDERGRADUATES EARN RECOGNITION

Each year the Political Science Department recognizes talented members of the graduating class. The awards are funded or endowed by grateful alumni, family, and friends in honor of former faculty and friends of the department.

The Joshua Evans III Prize was established in 1937 and is given annually to top graduating seniors in political science. This year the Department awarded the Evans Prize to three students: Giuseppe Cumella, Daniel Trubman, and David Waterman.

The John Andrew Morgan Prize is given annually to top graduating seniors who plan to study law. The awardees for this year were Julie Silverbrook and Benjamin Cole.

The H.C. Sacks Prize is given to a top student interested in the study of Far Eastern Affairs. The awardee for this year was Joseph M. Phillips.

The Department's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, welcomed 42 new members this spring.



Pi Sigma Alpha members Alan Romero, David Baratta, and Joe Cumella with Professor Susan Wiley

## MCCLINTOCK TESTIFIES ON THE HILL

Cynthia McClintock, professor of political science and international affairs, testified on February 4 before the House Committee of Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. The subject of the hearing, the first of the new Congress by this subcommittee, was "U.S. Policy Toward Latin America in 2009 and Beyond." Of special interest to the subcommittee were questions on: 1) U.S. policy toward Cuba and the Castro brothers' dictatorial regime; 2) the witnesses' thoughts for what should be Obama's priorities at the recent Summit

of the Americas; and 3) U.S. policy toward indigenous movements in Latin America. The subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), and the Ranking Member is Rep. Connie Mack (R-FL).

Professor McClintock, director of GW's Latin American and Hemispheric Studies Program, discussed the attitudes of Latin Americans toward the United States, commenting on recent drops in approval of the U.S. in several countries between 2000 and 2005. Making this situation more urgent, she testified,

is the emergence of China as an actor in Latin America and the appearance of an ambitious adversary in Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Barack Obama's election, opined Professor McClintock, provides an opportunity to strike a new tone in the region. In particular, she recommended changing policies toward Cuba, drug control, and immigration, which are unwelcome policies in Latin America and are seen there as principally the product of U.S. domestic politics.



Cynthia McClintock testifying before the House subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

## UNDERGRAD PRESENTS RESEARCH AT MAJOR CONFERENCE



Julie Silverbrook, a senior from Bucks County, PA, presented a paper in April at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago. Her paper was on the First Amendment and subversive speech. Silverbrook argued that in order for speech to be a type of con-

crete advocacy that can be appropriately considered beyond the pale of First Amendment protection, it must take on a conduct-like character that facilitates or aids a criminal enterprise, supplying more than an underlying motivation for the commission of a crime.

Silverbrook's interest in suppression of speech began in high school when she heard a prominent civil liberties advocate speak about suppression of speech during World War I. While a sophomore at GW, Silverbrook took Professor Steven Kelts' course on Freedom

and Equality. With his encouragement, she won a Luther Rice Research Fellowship, which provides support for student-initiated research to promote discovery- and inquiry-based education. With the Fellowship's support, Silverbrook interviewed constitutional scholars, including Professor Ronald Collins (First Amendment Law Center), Martin Redish (Northwestern Law), Geoffrey Stone (University of Chicago Law), Robert Peck (George Washington University Law), and Judge Hans A. Linde (Retired Oregon Supreme Court Judge).

Silverbrook, who plans to attend law school next year, was awarded one of the Columbian College's Distinguished Scholar Awards (only awarded to two graduation seniors) due in large part to her work on this project.

She described the conference as "a truly amazing experience," having received praise from her fellow panelists for her research as well as having the opportunity to field comments and questions from the audience on the substantive arguments of her paper.

## DEPARTMENT UNVEILS REVAMPED WEBSITE

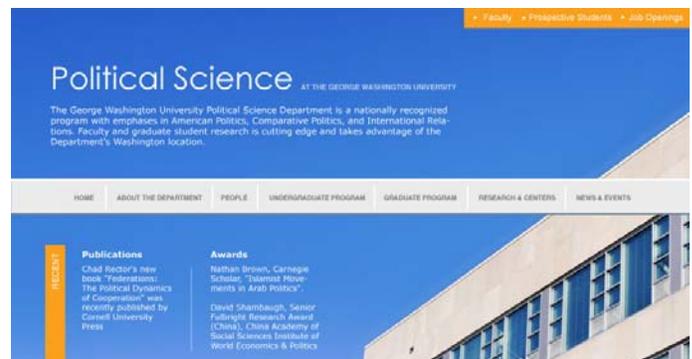
The Department has had a web presence for more than a decade, but its website recently was redesigned.

The website was designed by Colm Fox, a graduate student whose interests lie in democratization in Indonesia, but whose life before graduate school included work as a web designer.

The new website communicates

news from and events in the Department as well as information about the faculty, staff, and graduate students. The website also hosts the latest issue of the Department newsletter.

We invite you to visit the website : [www.gwu.edu/~psc](http://www.gwu.edu/~psc).



## ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR GW SCHOLARS

Political science faculty and graduate students enjoyed another banner year. Their scholarship received awards and garnered attention in published outlets. Faculty won several prominent fellowships: David Park won a year-long position as a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar; Manny Teitelbaum was awarded a fellowship by the Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace at the U.S. Institute of Peace; and Nathan Brown was named a Wilson Center Fellow for next school year. Brown was also named a 2009 Carnegie Scholar for his

work on "Islamist Movements in Arab Politics." In addition to the awards, Sarah Binder and Jim Goldgeier were reappointed fellows by, respectively, the Brookings Institution and the Council of Foreign Relations.

The research of several faculty won external grants. Hal Wolman's research was supported by a grant from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Henry Nau was given a grant by the Bradley Foundation to support a graduate student in 2009-2010. Lee Ann Fujii's research was awarded a US Institute of Peace

grant for the next two years.

Brian Karlsson, a graduate student, was named a recipient of the American Consortium on European Union Studies Research Grant for his project "The Politics of Immigration in the Shadows of the Nazi Past." Karlsson also won a dissertation fellowship from the German-American committee of the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies.

Many other faculty published articles in scholarly journals and books with leading presses.



## DEPARTMENT HOSTS CONFERENCE ON THREAT

The Department of Political Science and the Institute for Global and International Security (IGIS) hosted a conference on April 16-17 entitled "Threat in Democratic Societies." The conference, organized by Ingrid Creppell, associate professor of political science, highlighted the work on threat by several prominent scholars at GW and other universities. The genesis of this conference were conversations about what constitutes "threat" – a concept that was previously unexplored, but is critical in political theory and international relations. Creppell sought the views of people from many sub-fields in political science as

threat involves political psychology, norms, public opinion, rhetoric, perception manipulation, and international relations.

Participants addressed the complex issues raised by threat and the construction/perception of hostility in democracies. While threat has been a central topic of study for decades in international relations theory, many aspects of its origins, nature and function remain unclear, especially in democratic conditions. Threat occurs at multiple levels: the individual, group and national; it emerges "naturally" or spontaneously in reaction to public events and is

manipulated by elite and the media; it serves to justify collective political action of many types. How do we explain the move from individual sensation, emotion, and belief to a public perceptions of another as a threat? Conversely, how are individual emotion, sensation and belief shaped by public culture, discourse, leaders and the need for consolidation of a public will to respond? Papers exploring these subjects were presented at the conference by Creppell and scholars from five other universities. Creppell plans to publish the presented papers in a volume.

**Threat justifies powerful political outcomes: military budgets, suspensions of civil liberties, mobilizations for war, alliances and enmities. Yet, public discourse belies the indeterminacy of its meaning.**

## GW DISCOURSE

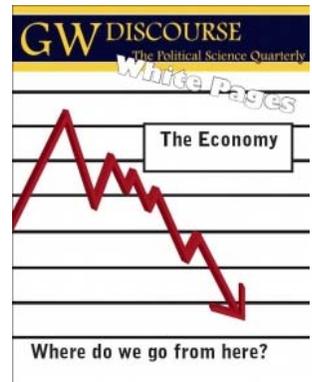
GW Discourse: The Political Science Quarterly is a student-run magazine that focuses on political issues and current events. The magazine was founded in 2006 with the goal of airing student perspectives on domestic and international affairs. GW Discourse gives students an opportunity, as former Editor-in-Chief Tim Little put it, "to take something I found interesting in the classroom, research it more in-depth, and write my opinions about the subject."

The most recent issue covered topics like higher education reform, Iran, economic protectionism, and agricultural subsidies. After a call for submissions, articles are selected by the editor to obtain quality articles that represent a balance of opinions on a diverse set of topics.

The magazine has proven to be a valuable part of the students' educational experience. "GW is a political place," Little re-

marked, "but we all hoped that GW Discourse could elevate the political discourse on campus to something more meaningful than sound bites and talking points. GW Discourse has better enabled GW to become a community of learners and I was happy to be a part of that."

You can read the latest issue of GW Discourse online at <http://gwdiscourse.com>.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: DAVID WATERMAN

David Waterman, a member of the class of 2009, was like many students before him – his interest in politics led him to the nation's capital and GW. Waterman grew up in Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, and attended the University of Illinois before coming to GW in 2006. He excelled academically while at GW, serving as president of Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society) and co-winning the Joshua Evans III Prize. He also was a member of the ice hockey club team at GW.

Waterman took advantage of the many unique internship available in Washington, working with youth criminal courts, on Capitol Hill, and at the White House (among others). The summer before his senior year, he conducted research in preparation for the presidential election at the American Enterprise Institute for Norman Ornstein and John Fortier.

In his junior year, he attended Greyfriars Hall, University of Oxford, where he studied government, philosophy, history,

law, and Latin. His favorite course was the History of Political Thought with Professor David Rundle of Corpus Christi College, which spurred his interest in political philosophy.

Now that he has joined the ranks of GW alumni, he is pursuing the degree of Master of Philosophy in Political Thought and Intellectual History at Cambridge. He hopes his study will build on his time at GW where he learned to connect the formative texts of Western political philosophy to the work of con-



temporary political theorists. He plans to make cross-national and theoretical comparisons on the changing conservative movements on issues of crime and punishment in Britain and America.

## FACULTY FOCUS: LEE SIGELMAN



Lee Sigelman is perhaps best known to former students from his Introduction to American Politics and Government. One of the advantages of teaching a big lecture course is when you are a ham, like Sigelman, that you have a captive audience of

a couple hundred students. "There are few things in academic life," according to Sigelman, "that can top the experience of giving a good lecture – sensing that the students are really involved, hearing them laugh at all the right places, having them stop on the way out of class to thank you."

Sigelman was hired as department chair in 1991 and played a critical role in transforming the department and GW. He describes GW in the late 1980s and early 1990s as "a pretty homely place physically and not

nearly as strong academically." However, both GW and the department have flourished. "As GW has emerged as a highly ranked research university, political science has in many respects led the way. At the same time, political science at GW has profited greatly from the university's drive toward excellence. For me, it's been very gratifying – and a lot of fun, too – to participate in all this."

Sigelman, who has an unsurpassed personal record of scholarly productivity, served as editor of the discipline's flagship

journal, the *American Political Science Review*, between 2001 and 2007. This, he recounts, was his favorite part of his career as a political scientist. Reading hundreds of papers and interacting with smart and interesting people, "I learned more about the substance of my discipline . . . in those six years than I had in the 30 or so years of my career until then." He now spends some of his time writing about political issues and events on his blog ([themonkeycage.org](http://themonkeycage.org)).

## ALUMNI HAPPENINGS: ELIZABETH MATTO, M.PHIL. '96, PH.D. '00

Elizabeth Matto graduated from the doctoral program in 2000. Her current work at Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics delves into civic engagement and education.

Matto directs the Youth Political Participation Program (YPPP). Through research, education, and public service programs, YPPP addresses the progression of youth political engagement through three stages of citizen development: as high school

students prepare to participate in the electoral process for the first time; as college students begin to exercise their political rights; and as young adults actively seek public office for themselves or for others. YPPP seeks to improve understanding of the forces that affect young people's civic participation and help generate informed and engaged citizens motivated to play a role in American democracy.

Matto also works on RU Ready, a civic education project. It is designed to provide high schools seniors in ethnically diverse and economically-challenged environments with the tools and encouragement to be civically and politically active upon graduation. The project is composed of a series of in-class sessions that involve role-play, simulation, debate, and discussion of local issues and possible solutions.

Her training at GW, according to Matto, provided a strong foundation for her work in these and other projects. "In addition, the responsibility and administrative experience entailed with serving as a teaching assistant at GW has provided excellent preparation for the creation and pilot of the RU Ready program, a project with a great deal of administrative detail and that requires direction of both high school and college students."

## DONATE TO GW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE TODAY

Gifts to the Department of Political Science allow us to further our research and educational goals. Each gift, no matter how large or small, makes a positive impact on our educational mission and furthers our standing as one of the nation's preeminent political science departments at one of the world's preeminent universities. You can make your gift to the Department in a number of ways:

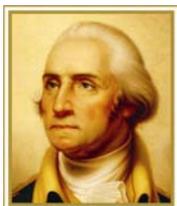
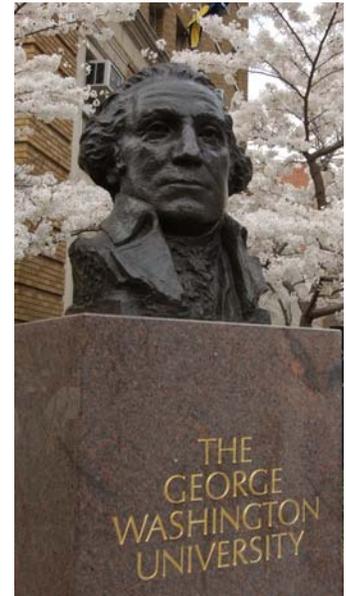
- Securely online at [www.gwu.edu/give2gw](http://www.gwu.edu/give2gw). Just choose "other" under designation and type in "Political Science Department."
- Mail your check, made out to The George Washington University and with "Political Science Department" in the memo line, to:  

The George Washington University  
2100 M Street NW, Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20052
- By calling the GW Annual Fund at 1-800-789-2611.

## THANKS TO OUR RECENT DONORS

The following individuals have recently made contributions to the Political Science Department. We very much appreciate their kindness and support for our various activities.

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### Upcoming Alumni Event!

**A New Court and a New Term: Understanding the Supreme Court**  
Panel Discussion and Reception  
Thursday, September 17 | 6:30 p.m.  
Alumni House @ 1918 F Street, NW Washington, DC

When Justice David Souter announced his retirement from the Supreme Court, he gave President Obama the opportunity to begin etching his legacy on the Court. Although frequently seen as watershed events, nominations can leave the nation ideologically fractured while not necessarily achieving the president's goals. Forrest Maltzman, Paul Wahlbeck, and Brandon Bartels will discuss appointment politics in the Obama Administration, the impact of Justice David Souter's replacement on Supreme Court decision-making, and the effect of Obama's historic nomination on the public.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.alumni.gwu.edu/calendar](http://www.alumni.gwu.edu/calendar).

We are on the web!

<http://www.gwu.edu/~psc>