

Department of Political Science Newsletter

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A Distinguished Career

Bernard Reich Retires

After 47 years of teaching at GW, Professor Bernard Reich has retired from the Department of Political Science. Reich has been a constant in the department since he began teaching here in 1964, and will be missed dearly by his colleagues and former students.

On April 24th, the Department hosted a party in Reich's honor. Attendees included Reich's wife, Madeline, his children, his grandchildren, his friends, and both current and former colleagues and students. At the party, friends and coworkers gave tributes highlighting Reich's impressive career.



Bernard Reich stands among his books
Photo: GW Hatchet, Francis Rivera

Reich began teaching immediately after receiving his graduate degree, but his interest in the Middle East began during graduate school, when a young Iranian professor named R. K. Ramazani convinced

Reich to write a dissertation on "Small Power Diplomacy" with a focus on Israel. This interest ultimately made Reich instrumental in the creation of the George Washington University's program in Middle

East Studies, where Reich introduced the first courses on Middle East and North African politics at GW. Later, he inaugurated the Washington, D.C. area's first courses on Israeli politics, the Persian Gulf, and Oil Politics. He was a member of the first Judaic

Story continued on Page 2

Fellowship. Associate Dean for Research, Geralyn Schulz, spoke about the benefits of

Engaged Students

Department Launches Undergraduate Speaker Series

This semester, the Political Science Department launched a new undergraduate initiative called the "Strategies for Success Series." The series kicked off on March 8th with an event on undergraduate research, which featured presentations by former GW research fellowship winners Adam Bethke, Jane Olmstead-Rumsey, and Jonathan Robinson. The Director of the Office of Undergraduate Fellowships, Paul Hoyt-O'Connor, and Coordinating Advisor Marc St. Hilaire also spoke about fellowship opportunities available to GW undergraduates, including the GW Luther Rice Collaborative Fellowship and the GW George Gamow Undergraduate Research



Undergraduate students listen to panelists at the first "Strategies for Success" event

getting involved in undergraduate research. GW fellowships are a great opportunity for students interested in doing original research and developing their analytical skills.

Story continued on Page 2

BERNARD REICH RETIRES

Continued from Page 1

Studies Committee at GW, and led a Summer Session program to Egypt and Israel. This summer program continued despite the war in Lebanon in 1982, and Reich earned the respect from students who were impressed that GW faculty could establish such a realistic scenario for classroom discussions! Reich served as chair of the Political Science Department for nine years, and wrote and contributed to 37 books and monographs during his time here.

While Reich said he will miss his many colleagues and the interesting students at GW, he is looking forward to devoting more of his time and energy to his family, especially his young grandchildren. He welcomed his seventh grandchild, Morgan, in early June.

Reich also hopes to do more traveling in his retirement. Instead of teaching commitments, he hopes to be able to accept more of the invitations he receives from foreign governments and universities, and to attend meetings and conferences both in the United States and internationally.

Reich is also ready to travel more extensively within the United States with his family. He hopes to finally spend time in the five states that he has not yet visited: Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

Finally, Reich will spend some of his time concluding the multiple book contracts and research projects that he is currently working on. He also hopes to prepare updated editions of a few of his already published books.

The Department would like to thank Bernie for his years of service to the university and to the field of political science, and we will look forward to his visits to campus!



Bernard Reich speaks at his retirement party (top); Department Chair Paul Wahlbeck remarks on Reich's incredible career (bottom).



Undergraduate Speaker Series

Continued from Page 1

Good luck to all the students applying for these fellowships!

The second event in the series, held on April 12th, focused on career development for political science majors. Three panelists, including Mary Beth Merrin (Ph.D. 1976), Nate Tamarin (B.A. 1998), and Mark LeDuc, came to the department to share their advice on choosing a career and landing a great job. Mary Beth, Nate, and Mark shared their



Jonathan Robinson (left), Adam Bethke (center), and Jane Olmstead-Rumsey (right) share their experiences with Department Chair Paul Wahlbeck as moderator (far right).

experiences working in the business world, the White House, and on Capitol Hill, and strongly encouraged students to work hard, do what they love, and to hone their analytical and quantitative skills while at GW.

Michael Gabriel, the pre-law advisor, also shared his advice for students thinking about going to law school, while Ann Mills discussed the services the GW Career Center offers, such as helping with resumes, interviewing skills, and job searches. The Department can't wait to hear about all the great careers our 2012 graduates go on to achieve!

GRADUATE STUDENTS' BEST TEACHING PRACTICES WORKSHOP

On Monday, April 30th, Ph.D. candidates Shannon Powers and Rachel Whitlark led the second of two workshops held this semester for political science graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) on best teaching practices. At this event, attendees participated in two activities that helped facilitate critical writing and thinking skills. The group then discussed methods for grading student assignments, and useful techniques for the classroom. These workshops were initiated by the Political Science Department as part of its initiative to improve the GTAs' teaching skills while at GW and in their future careers.

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Campus Events

Department Hosts DC Area American Politics Workshop

On January 9th, the Political Science Department hosted the second meeting of the D.C. Area American Politics Workshop. This event brought together faculty and graduate students studying American politics at local and national universities including GW, American University, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, and Temple University.

Workshop participants gave feedback on papers by students and faculty from American University and

Georgetown as well as by GW's Sarah Binder, Jake Haselswerdt, and Brandon Bartels. Attendees read all the papers in

“The workshop really showcases how much the GW political science department is embedded in a community of active and interesting scholars in Washington, DC.”

- Professor John Sides

advance and the entire workshop was devoted to feedback and constructive criticism, providing a real benefit to the authors. Participants held discussions on papers such as "Building a De-Central Bank: The Politics of Constructing the Federal Reserve" by GW's Sarah Binder

and Mark Spindel of Potomac River Capital, LLC, and "Comparing Attitudes toward Tax Breaks and Spending Programs: Evidence from a Survey Experiment" by GW's Jake Haselswerdt and Brandon Bartels. "The workshop really showcases how much the GW political science department is embedded in a community of active and interesting scholars in Washington, DC. One of the real benefits of working here is getting to interact with them," said John Sides, associate professor of political science and workshop host. Sides said the GW event was the second meeting of the American Politics Workshop and that he hopes to make it a regular event.

Political Science Students Participate in Clinton Global Initiative University Meeting

George Washington University was selected as the host of this year's Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) meeting from March 30 – April 1, 2012. CGIU provides a forum to engage young leaders on college campuses around the world. At this year's meeting, students, national youth organizations, topic experts, and celebrities discussed how young people can work toward solutions to global problems. Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, *The Daily Show* host Jon Stewart, singer Usher, Chelsea Clinton, and many others joined former President Bill Clinton as moderators of discussion sessions that focused on education, environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation, and public health.

Undergraduate political science students were invited to participate in the three-day event. One of these students, Omeed Firouzi (B.A. '15), said he wanted to attend CGI U to learn ways to

promote his project proposal to create a civic group near his hometown in the Scranton, PA area to raise awareness about sexual assault and violence against women. Firouzi said the seminars and workshops he attended were helpful in teaching "how to best evaluate and measure the success and progress of your project proposal as it becomes a



Political Science student Ryan Brenner (second from left) and friends participate in the Clinton Global Initiative University meeting held at GW
Photo: Ryan Brenner

commitment to action and ultimately becomes an achieved and completed goal." The most interesting part of the

weekend for Firouzi was the address by President Clinton, during which he stressed that the "definition of citizenship" should include some kind of public service on behalf of others. Another political science student, Ryan Brenner (B.A. '13), attended CGI U with Banaa, an organization that embodies President Clinton's definition of citizenship. Founded by GW students, Banaa aims to empower Sudanese youth through education to be the future leaders of Sudan and South Sudan. According to Brenner, there are currently two Banaa scholars on full scholarship at the University of Rochester and one, Makwei Deng, is about to graduate from GW. For Brenner, the highlight of the weekend was not President Clinton's talk or the impressive panelists. Instead, she said, "[CGI U] was about turning ideas into action, setting and reaching ambitious goals along with students from around the world, and trying to solve some of the most complicated problems by listening to others. For me that was truly inspiring." The weekend-long event ended with a day of service on Sunday, during which students participated in service projects throughout the city.

Scholarly Achievements

Graduate Student Accomplishments

During the Spring 2012 semester, many students in the Political Science graduate program were awarded prestigious grants and fellowships to further their research all over the country and the world.

- o **Kelly Bauer** received a U.S. Student Fulbright award for 2012-2013 to spend the Chilean academic year completing her dissertation research on indigenous mobilization, land reform, and inequality in Temuco, Chile.

- o **Kerry Crawford** received a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies to support work on her dissertation, entitled "Punctuated Silence: Variation in the International Response to Wartime Sexual Predation." Kerry will use the fellowship stipend to conduct research in New York City over the summer.

- o **Lisel Hintz** was awarded her second Critical Language Scholarship by the US State Department to pursue intensive language study in Turkey this summer. She was also awarded a Hoffman Full-Semester Dissertation Fellowship to fund her fieldwork for the Fall semester. This fellowship will enable her to remain in Turkey to conduct archival and media research as well as interviews for her dissertation,

which investigates how the dynamics of national identity contestation at the domestic level shapes the menu of choices available to foreign policy decision-makers.

- o **Michelle Jurkovich** received a Loughran Foundation Dissertation Grant to conduct research at Oxford University this summer. Michelle will use the Oxford libraries and archives to examine old Oxfam materials on famine relief strategies, audio recordings of lectures given by the first director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on depression-era famine, UK government documents on the Bengali famine and League of Nations reports on early attempts to coordinate anti-hunger efforts in Europe.

- o **Dawn Murphy** was named a Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program Postdoctoral Research Associate. She will be in residence at Princeton for the 2012-2013 academic year where will revise her dissertation titled "Rising Revisionist? China's Relations with the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa in the post-Cold War Era" for publication as a book.

- o **Shannon Powers** was awarded a travel grant by Women in International Security Canada to attend their annual workshop in May.

- o **Hyunjin Song** will use a Sigur Center Grant for Field Research to do

research on the impacts of China-South Korea FTA on inter-Korean relations, which would help her develop her dissertation on South Korea and Japan's hedging behavior toward China in the post-Cold War.

- o **Amir Stepak** received a Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, which will help him conduct archival research and build an original data set for his research on the relationship between domestic revolutions and major foreign policy changes.

- o **Ajay Verghese** received a Shorenstein Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Contemporary Asia at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, where he will spend a year turning his dissertation titled "The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Violence in Contemporary India" into a book.

- o **Rachel Whitlark** received a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship at MIT for 2012-2013. This is a pre-doctoral fellowship to be used for the research and writing of the dissertation over the course of the academic year. Rachel hopes to come as close as possible to finishing her dissertation while in Boston.

Congratulations all our students who received grants and fellowships this semester!

High Rankings for GW in Teaching, Research, and International Policy Survey

George Washington University's international affairs undergraduate program ranked 9th in the nation and its Ph.D. program ranked 15th in the 2011 Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) project survey. This survey explores the views of international relations faculty from all four-year colleges and universities in the United States and demonstrates that GW is a preferred destination for students interested in studying international affairs. Two Political Science faculty- Martha

Finnemore and Michael Barnett- were rated among the most influential international affairs scholars in the survey. Finnemore was named as the scholar who produced the most interesting scholarship in the past five years, and Barnett was also listed as producing interesting work. In addition, Finnemore was designated as one of the scholars with the greatest influence on the field of International Relations in the past 20 years.

In recent years, the Department built on its strength in international relations. We added several senior IR faculty in the past three years. In addition to Barnett, Charles Glaser and Alexander Downes joined the Department. Glaser came to GW in 2009 from the University of

Chicago. His book, *Rational Theory of International Politics*, was published by Princeton University press in 2010. Downes joined the Department in 2011 from Duke University. His current research focuses on the consequences of foreign-imposed regime change. Glaser and Downes give added visibility to the Department's international security scholars.

The Department has also seen new additions to its junior faculty in international affairs. This fall, Professor Caitlin Talmadge will be joined by Stephen Biddle and Rachel Stein.

The Department's successes in the TRIP survey rankings validate GW's designation as a center of excellence.



**Celebrating Commencement
Congratulations,
Graduates!**

The Political Science Department's graduating seniors are an award-winning group! Noreen Kassam was chosen to speak alongside NBC News anchor Brian Williams at this year's all-university Commencement on May 20th. She was chosen out of 12 seniors who competed for the honor. Seven students won Political Science Department prizes, which were presented at the annual Political Science commencement celebration on May 19th. The Howard C. Sacks Prize, which honors the top students interested in the study of Far Eastern Affairs, was awarded to Jia Min Loh. The Lee Sigelman Prize, honoring the top graduating seniors who will pursue a doctorate in Political Science, was given to Jonathan Robinson. Corey

Jones and Julian Landau-Sabella received the John A. Morgan Prize, which honors the top graduating seniors who plan to study law. Finally, the Joshua Evans III Prize, given to the top graduating seniors in the Political Science Department, was received by Monica Hanson, Timothy Kellogg, and Cameron Smither.

The National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, welcomed 21 new members at their annual ceremony on April 26th. Pi Sigma Alpha is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States and has over 730 chapters around the country.

Our graduating seniors are going on to pursue many exciting opportunities as they leave GW. Several report plans to continue their education, with 11 students pursuing graduate degrees at universities such as Columbia, Oxford,

and the University of Georgia. Three of those students are continuing their education at GW through one of the dual degree programs. Seven students will go on to law school at Harvard, University of Chicago, Cornell, NYU, Georgetown, Liberty University, and Tulane. Three students will be participating in Teach for America, while others will teach English overseas. Many graduates will be entering the workforce. Future employers include the State Department, the White House, the Department of Homeland Security, Brookings Institute, campaign organizations, lobbying firms, members of Congress, law firms, Metro Police, consulting firms, the Wall Street Journal, and the Marine Corps. Congratulations to all our graduates!



Building Global Connections GW student blogs about experiences in South Africa

Amanda Galonek is a junior in the Political Science Department. Below you will read her account of her experience studying abroad in South Africa with the Social and Political Transformation Program in the School of International Training:

“When thinking of South Africa, President Nelson Mandela and his 27-year prison sentence, the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and breathtaking safaris and beach towns come to mind. It was only once I got to the country that I learned firsthand the city of Durban was ranked among the top 50 in the world for murder rates, the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal is the epicenter of the HIV/Aids Epidemic, and South Africa has the highest reported incidences of rape in the world. The past few months have been a roller coaster of

emotions, but I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to study here. While in my home-stay villages, I have worked with street children addicted to glue, high



Galonek in South Africa
Photo: Amanda Galonek

school students in the rural area who could barely speak English, women prisoners sentenced for huge crimes, etc.

Though these situations would seem a bit intimidating, I have learned that these people have unshakable faith, and I was surprised to find that I looked up to them. I have learned that roughly 95%

of the people in this country identify as Christian, and carry such hope even in traumatic circumstances. It has been incredible to see.

South Africa boasts one of the most progressive constitutions in the world. Two areas of the South African constitution have significant impacts and effects on religion, particularly Christianity. These areas are in the rights granted for abortion and same sex marriage. As Christianity remains the dominant religion in the country, together with African traditional belief merging, it is critical to analyze socially what directions Christian beliefs are moving in.

I have decided to blog about my travels to keep a virtual personal journal of my time abroad and I hope others can learn from my sometimes troubling, yet extremely rewarding, experiences.

The link to my blog is:

<http://zwa20hleka12thanda.blogspot.com/>.

Hamba Kahle!”

Graduate student encounters Egyptian revolution first-hand

A graduate student in the Department of Political Science, Dina Bishara shares her account of the effect of Egypt's mass protests on her experience doing research abroad:

“I traveled to Egypt in September 2010 to study increased protest by public sector employees, especially bureaucrats. At the time, the increased activism by this previously quiescent constituency seemed particularly puzzling. I knew that this kind of mobilization would not pose a systematic threat to Mubarak's regime, but I was interested in its impact on politics in Egypt short of regime change. Following Mubarak's ousting on February 11, 2011, I had to reconsider my research question. In the end, I decided to expand my focus on bureaucrats to include public sector employees more generally and to re-shift my attention toward the way in which these constituencies challenged the Mubarak regime institutionally.

Perhaps one of the most important highlights of living through the January/February 2011 period in Egypt is the enormously high level of uncertainty involved. Retrospectively, it is quite easy for scholars to identify the myriad indicators pointing to the weakness of the Mubarak regime and the inevitability of regime breakdown. Neither the mass protests that erupted in Egypt in January 2011 nor the eventual ousting of former Egyptian President Mubarak, however, were inevitable. Not only was the scale of the January 25 protests surprising even to the activists who spread the call, it was also far from clear once the protests unfolded that the final outcome would be Mubarak's ousting.

It was the first time for me—both as an Egyptian citizen born after Mubarak came to power in 1981 and as a student of Egyptian politics—to experience a deep sense of uncertainty on a daily basis about what would occur the following day. For a long time, Egyptian politics was characterized by an almost dull certainty about the most politically important questions, namely which party

was going to win in parliamentary elections and the fact that Mubarak was going to win a majority in every referendum or election.

On February 1, I joined a group of my friends and traveled to Tahrir square. Getting there entailed driving through the empty city to the nearest metro stop then getting off two stops away from the Square as the stations closest to the square were closed. As we approached the square, my friends pointed to the state security vehicles that had been abandoned by state security officers when the police disappeared on January 28.

One of the most fascinating things that I witnessed in my time in Egypt was the almost instantaneous emergence of community watch-groups when it became clear that the police had retreated on January 28. It only took a matter of hours for men who did not know each other to coordinate and set up shifts for protecting residencies. At a time when the state's most important institutions disappeared, ordinary citizens assumed the responsibility of maintaining order for almost two weeks.”



Thanks to Our Donors

These individuals made contributions to the Political Science Department or the Sigelman Fund in 2011-2012 (June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012).

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

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ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Theresa Fariello (BA 1985) was named to *Washingtonian* magazine's list of Washington's 100 Most Powerful Women

David Schapira (BA 2001) is running to represent Arizona's newly created 9th District in Congress

Stephanie McNulty (PhD 2006) published a book through Stanford University Press titled *Voice and Vote: Decentralization and Participation in Post-Fujimori Peru*

Frances Morgan (BA 1983) is running for re-election as West Virginia's Jefferson County Commissioner. She also serves as president of the Jefferson County Organization of Democratic Women

Oklahoma State Senator David Holt (BA 2001) joined the Oklahoma Bar in 2011, and in 2012 became an Adjunct Professor at Oklahoma City University teaching an undergraduate honors class entitled "Trending: Hot Topics in Politics."

Send News to: *Political Science Newsletter*, George Washington University, 2115 G Street, NW, Monroe 440, Washington, DC 20052; or email us at polsci@gwu.edu



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