

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

NOVEMBER 2009

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NEWS AND NOTES

- **Brandon Bartels** published "The Constraining Capacity of Legal Doctrine on the U.S. Supreme Court" in *American Political Science Review*
- **Elizabeth Saunders** published "Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy" in *International Security*

GREETINGS FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE

When I became chair of the political science department, the universal reaction of my friends and colleagues was "my condolences." This reaction reflected the view that administrative burdens distract from the research and teaching that academics find so rewarding. But, being chair of a department that is "on the move" provides me with more than enough gratification to outweigh the burdens associated with the administrative headaches.

One of the best indicators of a department's trajectory is its ability to hire top tier faculty. On page 3 of this newsletter, we highlight the four outstanding hires that joined our ranks this fall. Since joining us, one of these hires (Brandon Bartels) has already published an article in the *American Political Science Review* and another (Charlie Glaser) has finished a manuscript that will be published with Princeton University Press. The other two hires Harris Mylonas and Llewelyn Hughes both joined us after delaying their start date because they were awarded prestigious post-docs at Harvard and Princeton. The success of the department in attracting top tier faculty is an indication that our future is even brighter than our past. Other indicators of our success as a department are the fact that GW was recently named the eighth best place to study international relations by the Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Project at William and Mary and that the Law and Courts section of the APSA ranked GW as having the #1 public law program in the country.

Of course, even more important than the quality of the faculty and the high standing we are held in by colleagues at other universities is the fact that our students graduate with the critical reasoning, writing, and analytical



skills needed to thrive. Although few of our graduates have had as challenging a post graduation experience as Robert Snowberger (see page 5), I have no doubt that the skills one learns in our department help every student.

As I said in the previous newsletter, essential to the department's continued progress is the support of friends, parents, and alumni. On several occasions, people have asked me precisely how their support is utilized. This support enables us to hire undergraduate and graduate research assistants; send students and faculty to conferences; and to and sponsor talks, lectures, and conferences. One of these was the Democracy Workshop that is highlighted on page 5.

Happy holidays and thanks for your support.

Forrest Maltzman, Chair

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS AND FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN FRESHMAN DAY OF SERVICE

On September 11, George Washington University observed the first National Day of Service and Remembrance. This was highlighted by the first annual Freshman Day of Service where more than half of the freshman class participated in service.

Among the participants in the Freshman Day of Service were Professors **Susan Wiley** and **Steven Kelts**. Kelts worked at Oxon Run Park in Anacostia. He and about 90 GW students cleared brush to increase security and safety in the park with its new children's playground. Wiley

went with a small group of freshmen women to Shalom House where they did light cleaning and interacted with residents.

Kelts commented, "I've never learned as much about the true spirit of GW students as when I've served with them. Our students are passionate, and committed to making a difference in their world."

First Lady Michelle Obama gave the University a challenge: if students, faculty, and staff complete 100,000 hours of community service by spring, she will speak at the Univer-



Michelle Obama with GW students at the Freshman Day of Service

sity's commencement. Wiley, the Department's undergraduate advisor, anticipates that the Department can account for about 10 percent of these hours.

FACULTY FOCUS: BERNARD REICH

Professor **Bernard Reich** has been a constant at GW and the Department over the last several decades. Over that time, he has seen many changes at GW: changes in the University, the student body, the Political Science Department, and in International Affairs.

The Department's full-time faculty has grown from seven to 43. The faculty focusing on international relations has not simply increased, but has grown to include the Elliott School of International Affairs with its large adjunct and full-time faculty.

The student body has grown in quantity (we still have the largest number of majors), but still includes some of the smartest, talented, and interesting students Reich has encountered in the U.S. and in his travels to more than 60 countries.

Reich's scholarly interests continue to evolve, although the focus has



Reich crossing the Suez Canal with Summer Session students

remained centered on the Middle East. His interest in Middle East politics began in graduate school when R.K. Ramazani, a young Iranian professor, talked him into writing a dissertation on "Small Power Diplomacy" with a focus on Israel.

Reich introduced the first courses at GW on Middle Eastern and North African politics shortly after he arrived at GW. Later, he inaugurated the first courses in the D.C. area on Israeli politics, the Persian Gulf, and later Oil Politics. He was instrumental in creating GW's program in Mid-

dle East studies.

Reich was a member of the first Judaic Studies Committee, an involvement that has continued. He led a Summer Session program to Egypt and Israel with faculty from other departments. The program included lectures, meetings, and tourism.

In 1982, to the distress of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and some parents, the program continued despite the war in Lebanon. Be assured, there wasn't a single casualty, and the students were impressed that the faculty could establish such a realistic scenario for class discussions.

Reich is working on a book (to be published in 2011) that will bring together decades of research on Israeli politics and policy. The book benefits from his own research and travel, as well as what he has learned from teaching GW students about this area for decades.

BALLA GOES TO CHINA ON FULBRIGHT

Professor **Steve Balla** is the adventurous type. Having been awarded a Fulbright scholarship, Balla spent the 2008-2009 academic year at Peking University in Beijing, lecturing on regulatory policy in China and the United States. He became interested in Chinese policy while teaching a course at GW on U.S. regulatory policies, a subject he has researched for the last decade.

“China’s regulatory system has an impact on the United States, and it affects the health and safety of the world’s most populous country,” says Balla. “Being here allows me to be more aware of regulations in development and to begin the process of researching these regulations. It has been very exciting.”

Balla was joined in China by his family. “All four of us had been studying Mandarin for nearly three years prior to our touch down in Beijing,” Balla reported. “So we were ready, from day one, to get out into the commu-



Balla exploring China

nity and start using our language skills.” Despite the preparation, they didn’t always get the food they thought they had ordered at restaurants, nor did they always arrive at the destination they had given to a driver.

Part of the Fulbright experience is speaking at universities around the host nation. Balla spoke at 11 universities in diverse settings like Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangzhou, and Wuhan.

These visits afforded Balla the opportunity to explore China and to engage in cultural exchanges. “When you arrive in China,” Balla commented, “embrace the discomfort that will assault your eyes, ears, nose, and mouth at seemingly every turn.”

Balla described one of their last forays into the Chinese countryside when he visited the grasslands of Inner Mongolia. A chance encounter with a farmer’s family ended with a shared meal of lamb and yogurt and trading stories about life in China and the United States.

GW, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, ranks 7th this year among research universities in the number of Fulbright scholars. Included in this number is Professor David Shambaugh, who is continuing the department’s participation this prestigious program with a scholarship to China.

DEPARTMENT ADDS FOUR FACULTY MEMBERS

The Political Science Department added four new faculty members this fall.

Charles Glaser, professor of political science and international affairs, comes from the University of Chicago. He will serve as the director of the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies. His research and teaching focus on international relations theory and international security policy: the security dilemma, defensive realism, the offense-defense balance, and arms races.

Brandon Bartels, assistant professor of political science, comes to GW

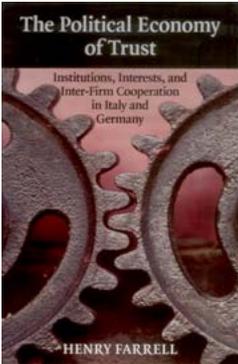
from Stony Brook University. Professor Bartels’s research and teaching focuses on American politics, judicial politics, and political methodology. His work examines judicial decision making, the Supreme Court, inter-branch interactions, judicial appointment politics; public opinion, political behavior, and institutional evaluation; and legislative politics.

Llewelyn Hughes, assistant professor of political science and international affairs, earned his Ph.D. from MIT in 2009. His current research focuses on the international and comparative political economy of oil markets, and the political economy

of climate change. He also has interests in the international relations of Northeast Asia and Japanese politics.

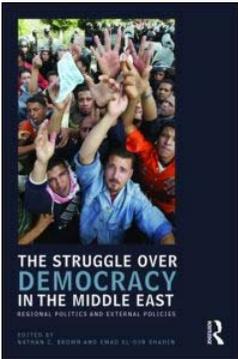
Harris Mylonas, assistant professor of political science and international affairs, received his doctorate from Yale University in 2008. His research and teaching focus on the processes of nation- and state-building, as well as immigrant and refugee incorporation policies.

RECENT FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP



Henry Farrell published *The Political Economy of Trust* (Cambridge University Press)

Elizabeth Saunders published “Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy” in the Fall 2009 issue of *International Security*



Nathan Brown published *The Struggle over Democracy in the Middle East* (edited with Emad Shahin) (Routledge)

Henry Hale published “The Putin Vote: Presidential Electorates in a Hybrid Regime” (with Timothy Colton) in the Fall 2009 issue of *Slavic Review*



Brandon Bartels published “The Constraining Capacity of Legal Doctrine on the U.S. Supreme Court” in the August 2009 issue of *American Political Science Review*

Eric Lawrence published “Adopting Direct Democracy: Tests of Competing Explanations of Institutional Change” (with Todd Donovan and Shaun Bowler) in the November 2009 issue of *American Politics Research*



Christopher Deering published “State Opposition to REAL ID” (with Priscilla M. Regan) in the Summer 2009 issue of *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

Lee Sigelman published “Are Two (or Three or Four ... or Nine) Heads Better than One? Collaboration, Multidisciplinarity, and Publishability” in the July 2009 issue of *PS: Political Science and Politics*



THE LOST ART OF POLITICAL CONVERSATION

The Democracy Workshop conducted a special event to introduce students to the lost art of political conversation. The event was organized by Professors **Bob Stoker** and **Eric Lawrence** with a colleague from the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

The workshop is motivated by the premise that we have forgotten how to conduct civil, thoughtful discussions of public issues. Too many generations of Americans have been taught, sometimes by social scientists, that the primary purpose of politics is expression of self-interest. Politics can also be a civil, thoughtful conversation to search for the public interest.

More than 100 students from the Political Science Department, the Trachtenberg School, and other policy-oriented programs at GW partici-



Lawrence looks on as a student reports the results of the deliberation exercise to his peers

ated. In addition, approximately 20 students and faculty members volunteered to serve as small group facilitators.

Participants learned about the Social Security program and were asked to consider ways in which the program could be reformed. Small

group discussions were conducted to make consensus recommendations. Although there was not unanimous agreement across all groups, several recommendations to guide policy did achieve broad support: Social Security should continue to exist; reform is both needed and possible; and most did not want to reduce benefits for current participants.

The Democracy Workshop engages students in a series of special classroom events to develop the skills necessary for active citizenship. The workshop provides a distinctive educational opportunity for students, important training and research opportunities for advanced graduate students, and opportunities for faculty to perform empirical research related to the techniques and practices that promote effective participation in democratic governance.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS: ROBERT SNOWBERGER, B.A. '07

Most graduates ponder future employment as they approach commencement. When **Robert Snowberger** graduated in 2007, he had a job waiting for him: a position in Navy SEAL training.

Snowberger graduated from the six-month BUD/S training (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL course) in February 2008. This training entails daunting challenges in basic conditioning, diving, and land warfare. The culmination is “hell week” when physical endurance, mental tenacity, and teamwork are tested. After surviving BUD/S training, he participated in junior officer training course and then completed the seven-month Seal Qualification Training in October 2008.

Two weeks after completing his training, Snowberger deployed to Iraq. His first task was to track special operations forces that were operating in Iraq. After about a month and a half of being behind a desk, he got the chance to go out to one of the operational detachments working out of a city along the upper-western Euphrates. The objective was to gain control over foreign fighters coming into Iraq across the border.

On his return to the U.S., Snowberger began his normal platoon training cycle with training in Land Warfare, Combat Swimmer and Special Reconnaissance. SEAL Platoons have to train for a year-and-a-half before deploying for six months.



Snowberger in Iraq

It is probable that Snowberger will be deployed in the spring. But, as he puts it, “they always tell us that in the SEALs you never know where you are going until you get on the plane!”

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:

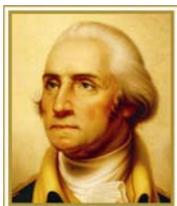
- Securely online at www.gwu.edu/give2gw. Just choose "other" under designation and type in "Political Science Department."
- Mail your check, made out to The George Washington University and with "Political Science Department" in the memo line, to:

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- 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.

- Thomas Anderson '70
- Steven Russell Corwin '75
- Bryan Daves '98
- John English '09
- Alvin & Gwen Kaltman '70
- John Victor & Sharon Moeser '75
- John Moran '95
- Dr. & Mrs. George Morris (Parents)
- Carol Reiter '70
- Peter Safirstein '78
- June Sceusa (Parent)
- Norman Schwartz '80
- John & Elizabeth Soldani (Parents)
- Saranga Senaratna '97
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Severs (Parents)



THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC

Department of Political Science
Monroe Hall 440
2115 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202.994.6290
E-mail: polsci@gwu.edu

Faculty News and Notes

Bruce Dickson received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study "Generating Popular Support in Non-Democratic Regimes: The Case of China"

Robert Adcock won the American Political Science Association's Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section Sage Paper Award for his paper "The Curious Career of the 'Comparative Method': The Case of Mill's Methods"

Forrest Maltzman won the American Political Science Association's Law and Courts Section Best Article Award for "Does Legal Doctrine Matter? Unpacking Law and Ideology on the U.S. Supreme Court"

Elizabeth Saunders won the American Political Science Association's Committee for the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy Best Doctoral Dissertation Award for "Wars of Choice: Leadership, Threat Perceptions, and Military Interventions"

We are on the web!

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



Department of Political Science
George Washington University
2115 G Street, N.W.
Monroe 440
Washington, DC 20052

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