

## **THE WELLMAN HILL POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM: THE SELECTION COMMITTEE'S SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT**

February 2015

This document reports on the seventh year of the Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grants Program. The grants were made possible by a generous gift from Elizabeth (Liz) Hill (B.A., M.A., 1997) to honor her grandfather, Wellman Hill. The program is intended to encourage Political Science majors to pursue and accept public service summer internships. One of the goals is to open public service career possibilities to students whose access to such internships might be limited by financial constraints or other circumstances.

### **The Selection Process**

Associate Professor Elliot Posner chaired the Wellman Hill Selection Committee comprised of Associate Professor Jessica Green, Professor Emeritus Ken Grundy, Visiting Assistant Professor Yuri Linetsky of the School of Law and Adjunct Assistant Professor Andrew Lucker.

Professor Posner held an informational meeting on October 30, 2013 for potential applicants that included presentations from 2012-2013 grant recipients and the Career Center's Experiential Learning Specialist Erin Nunn. The committee officially launched the competition in November. After extending the deadline from February 7 to February 28, 2014 (because of a disappointing number of applicants), eleven students submitted applications. The committee interviewed all the candidates on April 2 and 4 and notified the recipients and alternates the week of April 14. All of the 2014 grantees found internships by the deadline.

The committee left the basic rules of the competition largely unchanged. The formal requirements of eligibility included: 1) a major in political science; 2) two semesters of coursework at CWRU; 3) a 3.0 minimum grade point average in political science; 4) a graduation date no earlier than December following the internship summer; and 5) indication of commitment to public service. Students completed an application form that included a personal statement and a letter of reference from a CWRU faculty member, and provided the committee with a one-page resume. The main criterion for selecting grant recipients was the extent to which applicants' personal stories and their selected internships matched the public service goals of the program. Once again, a panel of Career Center staff members conducted mock interviews to help students prepare.

As in previous years, the students impressed the committee with their strong applications and interviews, making the selection process highly competitive. This year the committee gave grants to four students, all of whom found exciting and impressive internships and represented the Department of Political Science and the University well.

Liz Hill honored the finalists and alternates on May 3 with a celebratory dinner at XO Prime Steaks. The event capped the seventh year of this inspired program, which has broadened the experiences and aspirations of our students and has had an immeasurable impact on the department and university.

### **The 2014 Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grants Recipients and Alternates**

#### **Recipients:**

1. [Caroline Bass, The Ethics Group of the American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois](#)
2. [Andrew Breland, The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education \(FIRE\), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)
3. Destinee Henton, Policy Bridge, Cleveland, Ohio
4. [Krithika Rajkumar, Human Rights Law Network, Chennai, India](#)

#### **Alternates:**

1. Phil Hoffert
2. Olivia Ortega