

THE WELLMAN HILL POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM: THE SELECTION COMMITTEE'S TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

This document reports on the tenth 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.

A Year of Celebration:

To celebrate the program's first decade, Prof. Elliot Posner, Chair of the Wellman Hill Committee since its inception, hosted a party at his Cleveland Heights home on October 14, 2017. Liz Hill and her parents, Susan and Mike Hill, flew in for the event. Other attendees included several former Wellman Hill recipients, the other Committee members, faculty, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Cyrus Taylor and current Political Science students. At the party, the Department unveiled a plaque to be mounted in Mather House with the names of all past and future Wellman Hill grant recipients. In addition, the Committee inaugurated a fundraising campaign. When we reach our goal, the new fund ("The Friends and Alumni of the Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grants Program Fund") will support one additional internship grant per year.

The Selection Process:

The Wellman Hill Selection Committee was comprised of Associate Professor Posner, Professor Karen Beckwith, Professor Kelly McMann, Adjunct Assistant Professor Andrew Lucker and Assistant Professor Yuri Linetsky of the University of Alabama School of Law. Prof. Posner held an informational meeting on October 26, 2016 for potential applicants that included presentations from 2016 grant recipients and the Career Center's Assistant Director of Student Experience Lisa Grisez-Shullick. The committee officially launched the competition in November. Ten students submitted applications by the February 10, 2017 deadline. The committee interviewed the candidates and notified the recipients and alternates during the week of April 10. All of the 2017 grantees found internships by the May 26 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. The committee gave grants to five 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 October 13 with a celebratory dinner at Washington Inn & Bistro. The event capped the tenth 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 2017 Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grants Recipients and Alternate:

Recipients

1. [Kirsten Costedio, Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, Cleveland, Ohio](#)
2. [Koko Etokebe, Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Mediation Unit of the Consumer Protection Division, Baltimore, Maryland](#)
3. [Kelsey Holmberg, Congressman Tim Walberg \(MI-07\), District Office Intern; Jackson Michigan](#)
4. [Liana Kabins, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Registration Department Case Worker, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#)
5. [Jacob Sandstrom, Office of the District Attorney, Chautauqua County, New York](#)

Alternate:

Hanna Pommerantz