

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

This document reports on the eleventh 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 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 November 7, 2017 for potential applicants that included presentations from 2017 grant recipients and the Career Center's Assistant Director of Student Experience Lisa Grisez-Shullick. The committee officially launched the competition later that month. Eleven students submitted applications by the February 9, 2018 deadline. The committee interviewed the candidates and notified the recipients and alternates during the week of April 16. All of the 2018 grantees found internships by the May 25 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 27 with a celebratory dinner at Washington Inn & Bistro. The event capped the eleventh 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 2018 Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grants Recipients and Alternate:

## Recipients

1. [Kirsten Costedio, InterReligious Task Force on Central America, Cleveland, Ohio](#)
2. [Gillian Prater-Lee, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Cleveland, Ohio](#)
3. [Timothy O'Shea, Cuyahoga County Agency of Inspector General, Cleveland, Ohio](#)
4. [Ann Marie Smetona, U.S. Department of State – U.S. Embassy Bern, Bern, Switzerland](#)
5. [Amanda Spangler, Geauga County Court of Common Pleas, Chardon, Ohio](#)

## Alternates:

Nicholas Lowe