

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

This document reports on the ninth 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. Professor Posner held an informational meeting on October 22, 2015 for potential applicants that included presentations from 2014-2015 grant recipients and the Career Center's Experiential Learning Specialist Erin Nunn. The committee officially launched the competition in November. Six students submitted applications by the February 12, 2016 deadline. The committee interviewed the candidates and notified the recipients and alternates during the week of April 11. All of the 2016 grantees found internships by the May 20 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 despite the relative small number of applications in this year's pool. 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 October 15 with a celebratory dinner at Trentina. The event capped the ninth 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 2016 Wellman Hill Political Science Internship Grants Recipients and Alternates:

Recipients

[Hanno Fenech, Green-Iowa Americorps](#)

[Temil Omilabu, White House, Office of Presidential Correspondence](#)

[Elizabeth Taylor, Attorney General's Office, Massachusetts](#)

[Daniel Williams, Social Justice Fellow, CEOs for Cities](#)

Alternates:

Nico Ericksen-Deriso

Elijah Newcomb