

# WOFFORD COLLEGE

## Department of Government and International Affairs Fall 2016 Newsletter

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### ***Introducing Our New Programs***

Dr. William E. DeMars, Chair  
Department of Government & International Affairs



We are excited to introduce four new programs in the renamed, but still great, Department of Government and International Affairs! We have been building up the number and range of our course offerings for several years. I am very proud that our small department of five full time professors offers 36 distinct, substantive courses. Now we have reorganized those courses into four exciting new programs and added to our modified Government Major and

Minor. We offer a new Major and Minor in International Affairs, and two new Concentrations (optional five-course clusters within the Government Major) in Political Theory and in American Politics.

The Major in International Affairs prepares students for a world that includes both conflict and cooperation, often mixed together in the same international relationship. Leaders today and in the future need to understand both the scope and the limits of American power. It is a cliché to speak of a “rapidly changing world,” but who doesn’t feel the accelerating pace of change? And what profession, business, non-profit organization or government agency is not increasingly buffeted by international factors? Dr. John Farrenkopf, Dr. Rachel Vanderhill and I are eager to carry this new program forward with our students.

By creating the International Affairs Major, we opened up more space in the Government Major for two optional five-course clusters: Students in the Concentration in Political Theory, with Dr. Robert Jeffrey as lead professor, will read and master the fundamental works of the western political tradition, learn great

examples of statesmanship, and appreciate how poetry and literature can convey political wisdom. This concentration is excellent preparation for public life, for graduate study in law, political science or other fields, and for well-lived private lives.

Students who follow the Concentration in American Politics, led by Dr. David Alvis, will understand the development of ideas, institutions, leadership, and policy in American politics since the Founding. Students will be prepared to analyze contemporary policy and constitutional controversies, to pursue advanced degrees or careers in policy, politics, law, and public service, and to be engaged and active citizens.

Building upon the best traditions of the Department of Government since 1962, we will increase the versatility of our students with these new program options. My message to students is this: Whether you go into business or teaching, government or non-profit work, law school or grad school, our courses and programs will give you greater versatility and resilience to bring to the table broader contextual awareness of the world around you, and stronger thinking and writing skills, for your colleagues and your organization. You can see all our current programs and courses at <http://catalog.wofford.edu/courses-programs-departments/government/>.

## ***Experiences of a Truman Scholar***

*By Donovan Hicks ('16)*

During my junior year, I was selected as Wofford's 6<sup>th</sup> Harry S. Truman Scholar – it is a scholarship that serves as the living memorial to President Truman. Each year the Truman Foundation selects one person per state who exhibits the highest ideals of leadership, academic excellence, and potential for public



**Hicks (second from the right)  
overlooking DC from the Speaker's  
Balcony**

service. The scholarship provides a \$30,000 scholarship to any graduate program in the nation. But the value of the scholarship is far beyond just its dollars, the scholarship provides an extensive network, development, programs, and opportunity. For example, I participated in the program entitled, "Summer Institute," which allows Truman Scholars to spend a summer interning in DC post-graduation. We were also able to meet exceptionally accomplished individuals in public service, including the Honorable Clarence Thomas, Secretary of State John Kerry, Madeline Albright, Susan Rice, and others. I chose to intern at the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality under the leadership of Peter Edelman. It is a research think-tank where I was able to publish on issues of stereotypes and poverty, advocate for an increase in the earned income tax credit for childless adults, and research national demography poverty statistics. Wofford gave me the basic tools needed to know how to both conduct research and write.

However, those skills are more attractive when compounded with real-world experience, which is why working in any capacity post-graduation is becoming increasingly popular before attending further graduate school. Feel free to reach out to me if you are interested in the Truman Scholarship or living/working in our nation's capital. Both decisions have been among the best in my life.

*(Editor's note: Donovan Hicks has just been selected as a member 2018 Class of George J. Mitchell Scholars by the US-Ireland Alliance. Congratulations Donovan!)*

# ***The Benefits of Studying Abroad***

*By Maggie Stewart ('17)*

I was that student who began looking at studying abroad even before I came to Wofford. I've always known it was an adventure I wanted to embark upon. I considered many options for which country to study in, but definitely knew I did not want to go to one of the typical European destinations. I opted for a more unconventional trip and finally decided on Istanbul, Turkey (and had the opportunity to take side trips to Romania, Greece, Jordan, and numerous regions within Turkey). Before leaving, I was overwhelmed with advice, comments, and the timeless, "This will be the experience of a lifetime." I thought I knew that before I left, but that phrase is only understood retrospectively. I got a taste of what the world is really like; complicated, overwhelming, uncertain, astonishing, and beautiful, and all at the same time. I gained experiences and knowledge I could have never learned in the classroom or from reading the news.



I am a double major in international affairs and religion. I chose this pair because I wanted to learn the effect religion has in policy making and understand how faith impacts daily life and cultures. My five months in Istanbul helped me further relate my two majors and I got to see how much the two are truly connected and intertwined. I also had the chance to learn more about Islam, which allowed me to understand the people and country better. I had the opportunity to learn how to navigate in an unstable political environment and witnessed a country going through unsettling transformations. These observations and experiences have followed me back to Wofford, have shaped my world-view, and will continue impacting me as I begin my transition into my future career.

If you are interested in studying abroad or would like more information about the international affairs major, please contact Dr. Rachel Vanderhill or myself.

## ***The Department's Semester Events***

The Department of Government and International Affairs has had the privilege of hosting three outstanding speakers this semester, each of who are highly respected in their fields.



### **Mark Mazzetti: "The Secret Post 9/11 Conflicts and the World the Next President Will Inherit"**

Mark Mazzetti is a writer for the *New York Times* who primarily covers national security and is a winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on violence and unrest in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Wofford College had the opportunity to host Mazzetti to discuss his book, *The Way of the Knife* on September 20, to a packed Leonard Auditorium with students, faculty, and residents of Spartanburg. Mazzetti's book uncovers and explores "The Shadow War," the covert operations that the CIA has been waging since September 11, 2001. The book focuses on the changing nature of American warfare and the increased targeted killings after 9/11, particularly since the beginning of the Obama administration. Following his lecture, Campus Union President and government major, Chris Paschal ('17) moderated a question and answer session. There was a reception and book signing immediately following the talk.



### **Paul Atkins: “The Politics of International Business”**

On October 13, Paul S. Atkins, Wofford alumnus (1980), spoke to a full Leonard Auditorium about the SEC, financial markets, and government regulation. Paul Atkins, currently chief executive of Patomak Global Partners LLC, was formerly a commissioner on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Mr. Atkins provided some overview of the work of the SEC, including how it is an independent federal agency that bridges the three branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial). Although the SEC’s enforcement mechanism receives most of the media attention a valuable and significant role of the SEC is the disclosure of information for investors to help the functioning of capital markets. Mr. Atkins also discussed the origins and consequences of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. During the interesting question and answer period, Mr. Atkins responded to inquiries about the appropriate role of government regulation of financial markets, conflicts of interest within the SEC, and current trade agreements.



### **Marion Smith: “100 Years of Communism”**

The Department had the pleasure of hosting Marion Smith ('07), the executive director of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC), based in Washington, DC, on October 25. VOC was established by a unanimous act by Congress in 1993 to memorialize over 100 million people that have been affected by communism. Smith began his day at Wofford by speaking at a lunch for students about his career path, his role at VOC, and the creation and thought behind memorials. Later that evening in Leonard Auditorium, Smith spoke about which forms of government are best for people and why he believes capitalism and democracy, though not perfect, are the most beneficial to citizens. Smith argued that the events and consequences of the Soviet Union and Cold War have been forgotten, especially among the generations that were born after the fall of the USSR in 1991. Smith urged the audience to not forget the perils caused by communism and recognize that it is still happening in some countries today. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session.

