



Political Currents



Hanging our shingle in Washington, D.C.

JMU expands its presence in the nation's capital

BY JANET L. SMITH ('81)

The success of an important JMU academic program — the Washington Semester — is leading the university to expand its presence in the nation's capital with the creation of the JMU Washington Center.

Overlooking 16th Street in the District's Dupont Circle neighborhood, the third-floor suite offers a multipurpose classroom/event space, a conference room and two office spaces for use by the entire university. Until August, when the Washington Center opened, the Washington Semester Program used a classroom and rented a small office in the same building where the enrolled political science students lived.

University officials looked at physical space options over the last two years and decided that 1400 16th St., NW, would meet the needs of not only the Washington Semester but also other academic units and D.C.-area alumni of the university.

"There was a desire to hang a shingle for JMU here, since many of our students are either from, or settle in, the Washington area," said Dr. Charles H. Blake, professor and chair of political science.

'It was really the time to enhance that involvement by establishing a Washington presence for JMU.'

— DAVID A. JONES,
*professor-in-residence,
Washington Semester program*

"We recognized that this would be space for the entire university," said Dr. David A. Jones, professor of political science and professor-in-residence for the JMU Washington Semester program. "It was an opportunity for us to improve our classroom and event space while expanding opportunities for the university as a whole."

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The new JMU Washington Center, overlooking 16th Street in the District's Dupont Circle neighborhood, is the home of Madison's well-established Washington Semester program, during which students complete internships in the capital region. The third-floor suite, which includes a multipurpose classroom/event space, a conference room and two offices, is also available for use by the entire university.



What does engagement look like?

The Take Your Professor to Lunch or Coffee program is just one of many ways JMU professors engage with their students. Above, Dr. Hak-Seon Lee, associate professor of political science, and his students enjoy lunch at Madison Grill. Studies show that students who have an educational relationship with a faculty member outside of the classroom are more successful in their overall collegiate experience.



Political Currents

Political Currents is the official publication of James Madison University's Department of Political Science. It is published by the College of Arts and Letters and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

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MIX
From responsible
sources

Engaged with Washington and with the world beyond

BY CHRIS BLAKE

In August 2015, the JMU Washington Center opened. This was by no means JMU's first activity in the nation's capital, but this new facility represents a step forward in facilitating Washington Semester classes, other JMU academic programming, and alumni gatherings in downtown Washington, D.C. The suite of offices on 16th St. NW between O and P streets is tangible evidence of JMU's commitment to serving as a forum for research, teaching and debate on public affairs. This year's newsletter further testifies to the value of engaged learning, civic engagement and community service — an illustration of the culture of engagement lived by many JMU faculty, students and alumni. The cover story discusses not only the new Washington Center facility but also efforts to support students involved in public service in Virginia, in Washington, and elsewhere. Manal Jamal reflects on some of her award-winning research on politics in the Middle East. Students and community members discuss the creation of a new campus voting precinct at JMU. Graduate assistant Jonesia Person ('17M) discusses Lili Peaslee and Amanda Teye's efforts to help undergraduate and graduate students contribute to the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Kerry Crawford and Kristin Wylie reflect on the fall symposium on sexual violence sponsored by the School of Public and International Affairs. Graduate assistant Gabrielle Henderson ('16M) discusses the creation of a new center in support of student veterans through the leadership of Jennifer Taylor. Off-campus simulation teams' work is highlighted.

Alumni energy is vital for our ability to extend student learning and career exploration. During the 2015–2016 cycle, our alumni have worked with faculty and students to hold 12 events on specific career fields along with three multi-sector workshops on careers in the Washington, D.C., area. This year marked the

'Your generosity over the past year set a new record for giving to our department's programs.'

second Homecoming reception in which we have brought departmental students together with alumni. Well over 100 people attended this programming and our Alumni Board also organized a mock interviewing day in late April 2016. At Homecoming 2016, we hope to see you back on campus!

Jie Chen, the dean of JMU's Graduate School, is the newest member of our departmental faculty. During the 2014–2015 school year, department faculty members produced 20 publications, wrote another 31 papers presented at conferences, and made 34 additional external presentations. In April 2015, the four-year partnership between JMU and Big Brothers Big Sisters, funded by federal grants earned by Lili Peaslee and Amanda Teye, received the Governor's Award for Volunteerism. In May 2015, Kerry Crawford received the 2015–2016 Rosenau Postdoctoral Fellowship from the International Studies Association to fund her research on international efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence. In February 2016, Kathleen Ferraiolo received JMU's Distinguished Teaching Award for excellence in the General Education program.

I am pleased to announce that the Endowment Honoring Retired Professors reached its goal of raising over \$50,000 in support of faculty development funding in 2015. In addition, a new scholarship was created honoring Henry Myers in 2015. The department now strives to attain the funding necessary to endow a scholarship honoring Paul Cline. In addition, we are working to fund student fellowships in support of participants in the Washington Semester. Your generosity over the past year set a new record for giving to our department's programs.

This spring marks the end of my seven-year tenure as department chair. This summer, Jon Keller will step ably into this role. One of the great pleasures of serving as department chair has been renewing relationships with JMU graduates while also making new friendships with people I had not worked with when they were students. If your travels bring you back to the Shenandoah Valley, please know that you are always welcome here in Miller Hall. ☞

→ CONTACT Chris Blake at blakech@jmu.edu.

Giving back to those who have served

BY GABRIELLE HENDERSON ('16M)

In the fall of 2015, JMU took another step in providing services to students by opening the Student Veterans Center in Wilson Hall on Sept. 11 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by members of the association, the community and JMU faculty and staff. The event also commemorated the events of Sept. 11, 2001, with comments made by President Jonathan Alger, ringing of the Wilson Hall bells and a moment of silence.

President Alger spoke at the event, calling the center "... a space that our veteran students can call home, ... a place to study, a space for group collaboration, a meeting place, a place where student veterans can quietly connect with peers and a place that the university can provide direct services to these student veterans." The hope is that this new center will act as a hub for student veterans and their families throughout their academic careers. JMU provides a number of services to student veterans including special orientation programs, different tuition and withdrawal policies, priority registration, and even training for faculty and staff on the student-veteran culture.

The Veterans Center will act as the meeting place for the Student Veterans Association JMU Chapter. The chapter was founded in 2011 with the mission of "provid[ing] resources, support, and advocacy in a campus community for student veterans, service members and military family members." The opening of this center marks a new chapter for the organization as it expands its reach into the JMU and Harrisonburg communities. The chapter aims to support members in their transi-

tion to higher education, connecting members with off- and on-campus resources, building a community of student veterans, promoting awareness of their members' unique educational experience as well as serving as a voice for them in the community. With this new space, the chapter will be able to better meet these goals and serve any current or future needs of student veterans, active duty students and their families.

The JMU chapter is part of a much larger organization, the Student Veterans of America. The organization, over 1,100 chapters strong, was founded in 2008 with the aim of helping veterans achieve their educational goals after, or during, their military service. The nonprofit organization provides its members with a number of benefits and programs that cover everything from résumé building to virtual campus trainings. The Student Veterans Association, in partnership with the Home Depot, awarded JMU's SVA chapter a grant of \$10,000 to complete their Veterans Center. This highly competitive grant was awarded to the JMU chapter for its unique approach with student led ambition and action and new programs. The hope is that with this new space, the JMU chapter of the SVA will be able to better provide these services as well as help veteran students in a way that is unique to JMU.

Dr. Jennifer Taylor, one of the speakers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony as well as the JMU SVA faculty advisor, gave these remarks: "Borrowing from my own discipline of public administration, the student veterans and employee veterans at JMU best represent the dimensions of public service motivation: commitment to the public interest, civic duty, social justice, self-sacrifice and compassion. When it comes to civic and community engagement, it doesn't get any better than that."

With the opening of this Student Veterans Center, the SVA and JMU will be able to work together to better support students who have dedicated their lives to supporting the U.S. military and citizens. ☞

(Below): Dr. Jennifer Taylor addresses JMU faculty and staff, Student Veterans Association chapter members and the community at the Student Veterans Center ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of Wilson Hall on Sept. 11, 2015.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MIRIELLO ('09M)

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SPRING 2016

Examining community, national and global dimensions of sexual violence

BY KERRY CRAWFORD AND KRISTIN WYLIE

The Fall 2015 School of Public and International Affairs Symposium, titled “Sexual Violence: Community, National and Global Dimensions,” brought together roundtables, panels, workshops for faculty and staff, visiting scholars and film screenings to provide the JMU community with opportunities to discuss and better understand the impact of sexual violence in its many manifestations. The symposium, which was led by the Justice Studies department with assistance from Political Science, made connections between local concerns relevant to the JMU community and global issues related to sexual and gender-based violence. Two of the events in particular highlighted the nexus of local, national and global concerns.

On Nov. 12, Dr. Aisling Swaine, associate professor of practice at the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, spoke with nearly 140 students and faculty about her work on sexual and gender-based violence. During her visit to JMU’s campus as a College of Arts and Letters Visiting Scholar, Dr. Swaine shared insights from her experience managing humanitarian relief programs in conflict zones in Africa and Southeast Asia and working with U.N. Women and other international agencies. Her talk introduced the gravity of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict

(Below): School of Public and International Affairs students discuss how to join the fight against sex trafficking at the fall symposium. (Right): Dr. Aisling Swaine speaks to 140 students and faculty about conflict-related sexual violence on Nov. 13.



as well as the obstacles advocates have faced when trying to assist survivors and their communities. Dr. Swaine reminded attendees of the somber reality of sexual and gender-based violence in war and humanitarian crises: although we know it exists and must be stopped, the international community still struggles to find best practices for preventing such violence, assisting survivors and holding perpetrators accountable.

“Sex+Money: A National Search for Human Worth” is a documentary about sex trafficking of children within the U.S. We screened the film on Nov. 16 to an audience of about 80 students and faculty. The film was developed by a team of student photojournalists that, while documenting human rights violations worldwide, discovered that more than 100,000 minors are being sexually exploited in the U.S. With an aim to enhance awareness, raise funds for survivors’ recovery and forge connections across anti-sex trafficking initiatives, the documentary offered students a model for getting involved to resolve local and global challenges. The post-film panel was co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women-Harrisonburg, and featured SPIA students active in the strug-



gle against human trafficking. Emily Jaumilol (JUST), Duyen Phan (INTA) and Erica Qualliotine (INTA '15) spoke about their work with the Shenandoah Valley Justice Initiative, Free for Life International and Courtney’s House, highlighting how students can join the fight against sex trafficking.

The symposium as a whole serves as a reminder of the local-global connections that at once challenge and enhance collective action to resolve challenges to human security. Sexual and gender-based violence are not only threats to people living in faraway places, but to the people with whom we interact every day. Yet our concerns about sexual and gender-based violence should not be limited to the impact of such threats within the context of the college campus, but also about what can be done globally to prevent and mitigate those forms of violence. ¶

‘Although we know it exists and must be stopped, the international community still struggles to find best practices for preventing such violence, assisting survivors and holding perpetrators accountable.’

— DR. AISLING SWAINE, *associate professor of practice at the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs*



FACULTY RESEARCH CORNER

Investing in democracy abroad doesn’t always pay dividends

BY MANAL A. JAMAL

In the post — Cold War era, few topics have captivated scholars and policy makers alike as that of promoting democratization and strengthening civil society in different parts of the world. Since 1991, bilateral and multilateral Western donor assistance for democracy promotion,¹ particularly civil society development, has increased dramatically and has become a central pillar of U.S. foreign policy. The Middle East Partnership Initiative,² the Broader Middle East and North Africa Partnership Initiatives³ and the Millennium Challenge Account are only a few such recent initiatives.⁴ At the same time, a heated debate has ensued about the best practices and role of Western democracy promotion efforts worldwide, and in the Middle East region in particular since the start of the Arab uprisings. In the late 1980s, less than \$1 billion a year went to democracy assistance; today that total is more than \$10 billion.⁵

Preliminary examination of numerous cases, however, indicated that there was little relationship between the amount of assistance provided and democratic outcomes. On the contrary, cases that had received ample democracy promotion support were exhibiting the most problematic outcomes. Although the examination of such outcomes was not absent in the policy and academic scholarship, the focus of the extant literature was on the type of aid and the variation in programs and allocations, often ignoring the role of political contexts and political settlements in particular. Based on this preliminary observation, I began my in-depth examination of why democracy promotion efforts are more successful in some cases as opposed to others. Countering much of the extant scholarship, my preliminary findings pointed unwaveringly to the role of political settlement in shaping these outcomes. In 2006, Hamās won the Palestinian legislative elections, and slowly a worst-case scenario began to unfold. I was profoundly disturbed to see political events confirming my initial findings and argument.

These observations would become the basis for my book manuscript, *Democracy Promotion in Distorted Times*, which investigates how the degree of inclusion of political settlements shapes civil society and democratic developments more generally, and how Western donor assistance mediates these processes. The book examines these dynamics in two cases of conflict to peace transition, the Palestinian territories and El Salvador — two parts of the world that shared similar trajectories in terms of how the political organizations organized grassroots sectors that would diverge dramatically after the start of the peace processes in both cases. My in-depth examination of these two war-to-peace transition cases entailed over 150 interviews with grassroots activists, political leaders and directors of professionalized NGOs and donor agencies, enabling me to trace these divergent trajectories and the adverse effect that democracy assistance would come to play in the Palestinian case versus the Salvadoran case. In the Palestinian case, civil society became



(Top): Dr. Manal Jamal discusses her presentation during the conference. (Above left): Jamal presents “Democracy Promotion, Non-Inclusion and Hamas After Electoral Victory.” (Above right): Hamas supporters wave green Islamic flags during a rally.

increasingly elitist with restricted opportunities to engage the state. In El Salvador, on the other hand, civil society remained less elitist and more inclusive of grassroots constituencies, involving greater opportunities to interact with the state. In both cases, however, the resultant trajectories were direct outcomes of the political settlement and the level of support they enjoyed, and foreign donor assistance served to mediate these outcomes. In the Palestinian case, key actors were excluded from the onset of the Oslo peace process, and Western donor assistance would serve to reinforce this exclusion.

Unfolding events in the Middle East today confirm these findings. Regardless of how democracy is conceived and which dimensions of contestation are emphasized, non-inclusive political settlements in which key actors are excluded from the onset will undermine the prospects for the emergent democracy; Western democracy promotion efforts can serve to mediate these processes, but by no means determine these outcomes alone. ¶

¹ According to Schmitter and Brower, “democracy promotion” refers to efforts to liberalize, democratize, or consolidate regimes by “...re-writing their constitutions, designing their electoral systems, teaching their party members how to campaign, helping civil society organizations to lobby, socializing individuals to ‘proper’ civic values and behavior, and encouraging trade unions, business and professional associations, and state agencies to set up forms of (good) governance” (1999, 9). For more on democracy promotion, refer to Philippe Schmitter and Imco Brower, *Conceptualizing, Researching and Evaluating Democracy Promotion and Protection*, EUI Working Paper SPS No. 99/9 (Florence: Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, 1999).

² Then Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the Middle East Partnership Initiative in December 2002.

³ In June 2004, the G8 unveiled the “Partnership for Progress and a Common Future” with the Broader Middle East and North Africa.

⁴ Through the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), the White House linked significant amounts of foreign assistance to performance on democratic governance (for more on the MCA, see Windsor 2006).

⁵ Carothers, “Democracy Aid at 25: Time to Choose,” *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 26, Number 1, January 2015, pp. 59-73.

Hanging our shingle in Washington, D.C.

Continued from Page 1

Begun in 1997 as a spring semester program, the Washington Semester has grown into a two-semester program offering two separate areas of study: U.S. politics and policy (fall) and global affairs

(spring). Approximately 450 students from disciplines including political science, international affairs, public policy and administration, history, English, media arts and design, and writing, rhetoric and technical communication have benefited from the program's emphasis on internships, courses and guest speakers, including many JMU alumni.

While other schools have semester-long programs in Washington, Jones said, "Ours is unique in that we've structured the program so that students can work full time, Monday through Thursday, and take on long-term projects as part of their internships."

(Left): Faculty, staff and students attend the Washington Center grand opening on March 1. (Below): The entrance to the third-floor suite. (Bottom and opposite page): Faculty and students discuss issues at the Syria task force meeting in the multipurpose classroom.



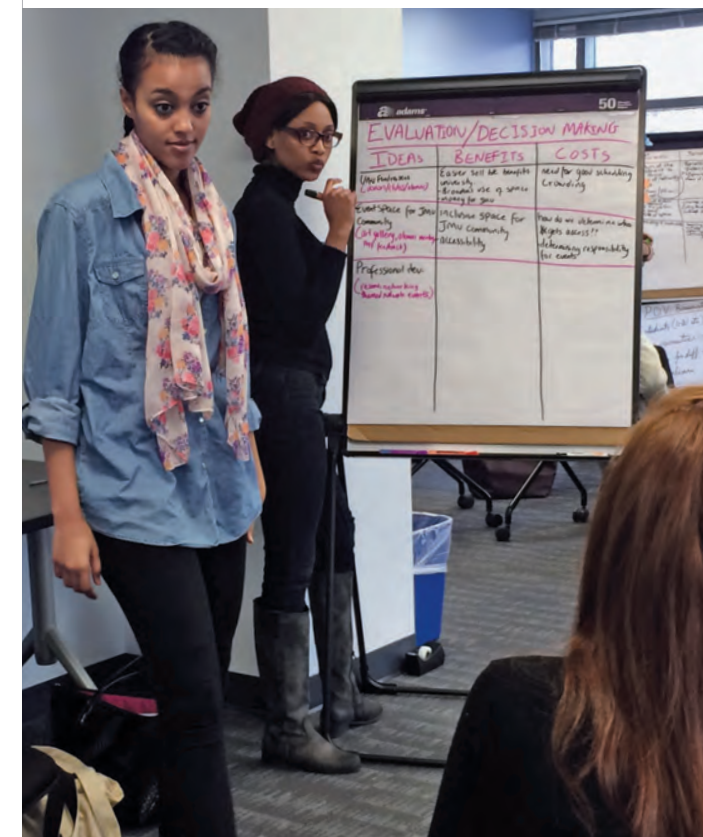
In its nearly two decades, the Washington Semester has supported JMU students in internships with such prestigious organizations and governmental offices as the White House, State Department, Congress, C-SPAN, U.S. Trade Representative, Amnesty International, American Enterprise Institute, Women for Women International and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The technologically up-to-date new space is a welcoming place for JMU to invite its increasingly active alumni base that is interested in the Washington Semester and is involved in ways such as returning to present about their D.C.-based work and to serve as mentors and networking contacts, Jones said. "It was really the time to enhance that involvement," he added, "by establishing a Washington presence for JMU. We felt like it was time for an actual physical presence. We already had a presence in D.C., but it wasn't a physical one. We were always a guest wherever we held our own events and class sessions."

"We are bringing a part of JMU to Washington," Jones said. "We want to host JMU scholars who can share their expertise and present their research with the Washington area. We want to encourage other JMU units to use the new space and to consider launching their own Washington-based academic programs."

'There was a desire to hang a shingle for JMU here, since many of our students are either from, or settle in, the Washington area.'

— DR. CHARLES H. BLAKE, *professor and chair of the political science department*



Improving Access to Opportunities

"Do an internship." Students are told this from the moment they start college. It is sound advice. According to a 2012 *Chronicle of Higher Education* survey, internships topped the list of attributes that employers are looking for when hiring recent graduates. Internships enable students to gain on-the-job experience, develop marketable skills and make contacts for securing a permanent job.

The JMU Washington Semester program provides an ideal platform for taking this first step. The program enables students to pursue a full-time internship while completing upper-level coursework. Because participants work full time for the entire semester, they are in a good position to get the most out of their internship experience. Yet because of the significantly higher costs in terms of housing, transportation and meals, Washington Semester participants spend an estimated \$4,300 more than they would during a normal semester on campus.

This is a wise investment. Washington Semester participants gain all of the advantages that come with completing a long-term internship. Because they earn a semester's worth of JMU credits, participation does not delay their progress toward earning a degree. Interning during the semester relieves them of the pressure to intern during the summer, freeing them to earn money between semesters.

Unfortunately, internships are out of reach for many students. Most are unpaid – and take up time that working students would normally spend earning money. As a result, many students cannot afford to take what is widely seen as a crucial first step toward launching a successful career – whether it be a summer internship or a Washington Semester internship.

To reduce this barrier to internship opportunities, the Department of Political Science has launched a pair of new fellowship campaigns. A new Washington Semester fellowship will provide need-based assistance to one student per semester beginning in Fall 2016 – with the goal of endowing and expanding this program over time. The Dr. Paul C. Cline Scholarship (discussed on Page 12) will provide funding for summer internships, study abroad and other experiential learning. For more information on these programs, please contact Michael Speight with University Advancement (speighmj@jmu.edu).

Combined with the new DuVal Virginia Public Service Fellowship (which helps support a Virginia-based public-service internship), the Washington Semester fellowship, the Paul Cline Scholarship and ongoing contributions to the department's annual fund campaign help to provide access to an array of experiential learning opportunities that permit JMU students to pursue civic engagement and community engagement beyond the classroom.

BETHECHANGE

Campus voting precinct

Political science majors secure on-campus voting

BY KATHLEEN FERRAILOLO

After several years of advocates' dedicated behind-the-scenes effort, in August 2015 the Harrisonburg City Council, by a vote of 3-2, elected to establish a voting precinct on JMU's campus. The precinct became operational on March 1, 2016, in time for the presidential primary. *Political Currents* spoke with two of the students who spearheaded the effort, Josh Humphries ('15) and Ryan Windels ('16), as well as Harrisonburg Electoral Board member Sandra Price-Stroble, about how their efforts ultimately led to success.

Why did you decide this was an idea worthy of pursuing?

What were the first steps you took?

Humphries: I really started thinking about this issue after I volunteered during the 2013 gubernatorial Get Out The Vote efforts around campus. It seemed logical to me that instead of taking students to the voting precincts, why not bring one to them? But also, how can we (in the Student Government Association) get more people voting in every election, not just the presidential? I was surprised to find that several Virginia institutions [including Virginia Tech, Liberty, George Mason and the University of Virginia] already have



(Left): SGA Legislative Action Committee Chair Josh Humphries ('15) with Harrisonburg City Mayor Chris Jones who voted in favor of the precinct. (Below): Humphries (center) discusses options for a voting precinct on JMU's campus with Harrisonburg Electoral Board members including Sandra Price-Stroble (second from right).

voting precincts on or considerably closer to campus, and that adding a precinct to these campuses did increase student turnout.

What (expected or unexpected) obstacles or challenges did you face in this process?

Humphries: Timing was the biggest unexpected challenge. The Electoral Board is comprised of three members, each appointed by the governor, and two of whom share the governor's party. While I needed to wait until the party composition of the board was favorable to submit an official proposal, I lobbied the members of both City Council and the Electoral Board so when the time to vote did arise, I knew where I stood. As a result, I got to know all of these individuals very well, which was one of my favorite parts of this whole process. I thought, perhaps somewhat naively, that increasing voter participation in the political process is generally a good idea, regardless of ideology. But I had to align with the party that was being the most supportive: the Democrats. Here's where it got interesting for me; I'm a Republican. But members of my own party were generating most of the opposition and I needed to amass support.

Windels: I did not expect such a pushback from some members of the community, especially those who argued that voting is a community activity, and that students should be voting among other members of the community to truly engage with Harrisonburg. We expected to run into arguments citing the cost as well as the general logistics of the project.

What were the most important arguments you made to City Council in favor of establishing a campus voting precinct?

Humphries: Voter access is the overall issue at the center of this entire discussion, and I framed my arguments with that idea in mind and the goal of increasing participation. Fortunately, this was a goal that was shared by the university senior leadership, other university administrators and the political advocacy groups. It was my position that students, particularly students new to this community, face a unique set of barriers that stifle their participation. Further, I also emphasized how this proposal fully embodies the mission and vision of the university to "be the national model for the engaged university; engaged with the world and ideas."

Price-Stroble: I feel the Electoral Board should be doing everything we can to encourage increased voter registration and participation. The potential pool of on-campus housing voters is approximately 6,000. I believed that adding a precinct to the campus of JMU will provide easier accessibility to the on-campus students and increase participation.

What were the strongest arguments against the campus voting precinct that were presented to you, and how did you deflect these arguments?

Humphries: The arguments against the precinct really boiled down to partisanship and negative connotations associated with the JMU student population. Of the substantive arguments presented against the proposal, the cost factor was the most valid. The voter registrar had estimated that there would be an approximate startup cost

of \$20,000 and an annual cost of \$2,000 to operate the precinct. The opponents claimed that since this was a request rather than a necessity to add a precinct, taxpayer funds shouldn't be used. First, I countered this with the fact that JMU students are taxpayers, who contribute to the economic vitality of this community. In addition, the JMU administration supported the proposal and indicated that JMU would be willing to cover the entirety of the costs.



Another notion was that JMU students would swing the city further into the blue column and that students aren't educated enough on local issues to vote in the city and should just vote absentee. To counter these claims, I presented findings from the JMU Department of Institutional Research which suggest that our campus is not a bastion of liberalism. Rather, our campus is divided into fairly even thirds of liberal, conservative and moderate.

Windels: One of the strongest arguments that came against the voting precinct was that the current precinct located at Spotswood Elementary School was not far away enough to deter students from voting. We were able to counter that by reporting that from the center of campus, Spotswood is well over a mile away, which is discouraging to a lot of students, especially those with disabilities. We also faced an argument that if JMU students wanted to be members of the community, they should be voting at a precinct that is not only for JMU students. We said in response that community is not created by the lines of voting precincts, but by the camaraderie and mutual respect of everyone.

Price-Stroble: The most compelling argument against establishing a precinct was probably the history of low student voter turnout. I deflected that by saying we couldn't know how establishing the precinct would increase the voter turnout unless we established the precinct on campus and followed the data for student participation.

Why was it important to you to work on this issue? What does it mean to you that the precinct will be established at JMU?

Humphries: Having a precinct established on campus will be a highly valuable resource for students of JMU for years to come. As I'm in the process of completing my final semester here at JMU, I'll never cast a vote in this precinct. But my motivation to complete this project was not out of my own personal interests. JMU and Harrisonburg has been a place that has given me so many opportunities far beyond the value of my tuition, which I can never repay. This was my way of giving something back to this community that I love and presenting others an opportunity I never had. During this process, I got to work with some dedicated individuals, on both sides, and directly engage in public policy. Pursuing this issue was something that was far more important than simply partisan politics. I put aside my ideological bias aside to work together and accomplished something that will actually empower people and it was incredibly rewarding. I felt a sense of accomplishment that I haven't felt before and it confirmed for me that I want to pursue a career in public service.




(Above): Josh Humphries ('15) hears Harrisonburg Electoral Board members' concerns about a voting precinct on JMU's campus. (Left): Humphries with Sandra Price-Stroble.

Windels: It was important to me to work on this issue because we had a real opportunity to increase civic engagement on campus, all while helping other students become a part of a more engaged electorate, and that hopefully after their time at JMU they will continue to vote and be informed.

Price-Stroble: I believe it is not only the responsibility of the Electoral Board to run open, fair and secure elections in a nonpartisan manner, but it is also important that we should do what we can to support increased voter registration and voting. Whenever there is an opportunity to make voting more accessible, I believe we should do so.

I would like to see a cooperative effort between JMU and the officials of the City of Harrisonburg to help students learn more about their local government and the community where they reside at least 10 months, if not year-round. Voting is one way of having more investment and ownership in the community. Hopefully voting in this community also helps students to develop more pride in and respect for the community in which they attend college. The JMU students are vital citizens of Harrisonburg who spend countless hours volunteering in many ways to help our community. Their voices need to be heard, and I hope adding this precinct will help facilitate that by casting their vote.

No matter what the reasons for supporting or not supporting this issue, one very positive outcome for me personally was to show that progress can be made through bipartisan cooperation. If we keep an open mind and give each other a chance to be heard, people can work together through the governmental process who are from different political parties and certainly different generations. In this case, Josh Humphries, a student leader at JMU in his early 20s who is a Republican, and I, an appointed Election Official in her late 60s who is a Democrat, never debated other political positions or tried to influence each other about our political affiliations. We found common ground and shared mutual respect as we both wanted to take this issue through the local governmental process to ultimately have it be heard. 

Continued aspirations abroad

Alumna pursues career in international development

BY ELIZABETH VILLARROEL ('03)

During my first semester senior year, I was given an incredible opportunity by a faculty member within the political science department that changed the course of my life and propelled my career.

I was an international affairs major with a concentration in Latin American studies. I had developed an interest for the Russian language in high school and had been taking classes at JMU as electives. Through the encouragement of my Russian professor, I spent the summer before my junior year in Moscow and developed a strong interest for the country and inherently for the region. Upon my return to JMU, I decided that I wanted to further enhance my knowledge of the region. At that point academically, it was impossible to fit more classes into my schedule due to the fact that I was triple majoring. I made an appointment with Dr. Stephen Bowers, sending along my résumé via email for suggestions on companies and institutions that might send me back to Moscow. I was, and am still, a firm believer that the best way to understand a region and comprehend its language and people is by living immersed within it; and for this reason I decided that I would try and work abroad in Russia after graduation, despite the fact that my last four years had been devoted to Latin America.

Upon meeting with Dr. Bowers, he told me of the William R. Nelson Institute and an opportunity to go to Moldova for a few months. At first I was hesitant because I had a very clear picture of what I thought my future would look like and Moldova didn't play a role in it. I went home a bit confused as to what had happened and not until the

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— ELIZABETH VILLARROEL ('03),
International Affairs major

next day did I realize that this was an excellent opportunity. How many times in my life would someone offer me something like this, I thought. That day I called Dr. Bowers and told him that I had decided to take him up on his offer. We worked out the details over the course of the year, and I was bound for Chişinău, Moldova, that summer.

Dr. Bowers had set up a host family for me to stay with through a strong network of students from Moldova who had spent some time at JMU, as well as a great person to guide me during my first few days in Moldova. I had decided to take language lessons as well as apply for volunteer positions with international organizations that were within my interests, thinking that the latter portion of the plan would be impossible given that I had no real work experience abroad. Dr. Bowers encouraged me to try, and I was surprised at the results. Many were impressed with my courage to venture into a country with little to no safety net, and even more impressed with the fact that a professor at my university had the vision to start me in this direction.

After some interviews, I chose to work for a U.S. Agency for International Development funded project on Local Government Reform that, to my surprise, even offered to pay me. I was to be there for the remainder of my time in Chişinău as a member of their democracy and governance team. During my second week, I was offered the opportunity to stay in Moldova for a total of a year and extended my stay.

After that moment, my entire foreseen trajectory had been altered. During my year in Chişinău, Moldova, I was able to meet people in all walks of life. For example, the mayor of Ciadîr-Lunga, whom Dr. Bowers holds in the highest regard, always mentioned their time spent together. There was not one opportunity where he didn't tell people from USAID about Dr. Bowers and the work that they had done and that we were from the same university. He even announced it once at a quarterly mayors meeting, where over 50 mayors from all over Moldova were present, to the surprise of the USAID observers from Washington, my boss and myself. I was able to spend time in villages with local people tackling local problems as



well as with parliamentarians and development experts in Chişinău focused on national issues. The opportunity to work with such a high-caliber development organization at such an early stage in my career further fortified my goals and my professional foundation.

I would not be where I am today if it were not for Dr. Bowers' constant support and the curiosity that was fostered by my professors at JMU. My experience in Moldova taught me about what it really means to be in the field of development and it is something that has guided my career path. I have spent the past 13 years working on good governance, political transition, stabilization and conflict mitigation projects. I have worked on projects sponsored by the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the World Food Programme. Many of these programs operate in challenging environments — Sudan, Pakistan, Burma, Colombia, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria and Honduras to name a few. Over time I have gained an even greater understanding of complex programming and the importance of local analysis and context in taking into account all factors that can impact a program, including but not limited to, donor regulations, policies, geopolitical and bilateral policy implications. As the portfolio director for stable governance at DAI Global LLC since May 2014, I provide management, technical expertise and thought-leadership to DAI's Stable Governance portfolio across geographic regions and within our U.S. and Europe business units. Today I continue to travel the world with the same curiosity and respect that I was able to hone during my first experience working abroad in Moldova. P

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ELIZABETH VILLARROEL ('03)



Off-Campus Simulation Teams

During the fall of 2015, more than 50 students in the Department of Political Science participated in off-campus simulation activities. At conferences in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., the students grappled with real-world issues including the European refugee crisis, the reconstruction of Afghanistan and ISIS's influence among young recruits. As part of their participation, students practiced their skills in diplomacy, met with policy advisors and attended talks with governmental officials.

Model Arab League students won two awards at the November 2015 Capital Area Regional Model Arab League: Aric Peterson ('16) won the Distinguished Delegate Award for his representation of Egypt on the Joint Defense Council, and Charlotte Lathrop ('16) won the Outstanding Delegate Award for her representation of the Assistant Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Students who participated in these efforts sharpened their skills in critical thinking, analysis, research gathering, and public speech and debate.



Off-campus simulation teams include (Top): Model United Nations; (Above): Model Arab League; (Below, L-R): Model European Union and Peer 2 Peer. (Bottom): The Peer 2 Peer vigil supporting Paris bombing victims held on the Quad.



MODEL UN PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ADAM MINER; MODEL ARAB LEAGUE COURTESY OF MANAL JAMAL; MODEL EUROPEAN UNION COURTESY OF JOHN SCHERPEREEL; PEER TO PEER COURTESY OF KEITH GRANT

Scholarship Honors Paul Cline's Legacy

BY CHRIS BLAKE

Friend. Teacher. Scholar. Citizen. Gentleman. Master storyteller. These are a few of the many facets that Dr. Paul C. Cline brought to this campus over a distinguished career that spanned the transition from Madison College to James Madison University. Paul Cline came to Madison College in 1961 as its first full-time political science professor on a campus of fewer than 1,700 students. In 1977, Madison College became James Madison University with an enrollment of almost 8,000. When Cline retired in mid-1995, JMU's enrollment was nearing 12,000.

Through all of these changes, Paul Cline kept his family and his students at the center of his attention. Cline observes, "Then and now the caliber of our students has been outstanding. As the first political science instructor on campus, I can recall these men and women as young people who were preparing to make sterling contributions in teaching and scholarship, government and politics, law and business, and service and citizenship in the United States and overseas. I can still recall where many of my students sat and learned, or at least attempted to cover their despair. From Maypoles and rigid rules, and from war and campus unrest in the 1960s, through technological, political, and social revolutions in succeeding decades, I had the privilege of learning with thousands of Madison's finest — and I am very grateful. Teaching our students has been an awesome responsibility, a lifelong privilege, and a continual joy." Cline's example shaped the work of future professors from Kay Knickrehm and Doug Skelley through Tony



Eksterowicz and Robin Teske and on to Scott Hammond and the current departmental faculty.

Paul Cline dedicated himself to his students while making time to be civically engaged in Harrisonburg — including service as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1985 to 1987. His students remember him fondly as a positive force in their lives. Michelle Hite ('88) called him "the one person I didn't want to disappoint." Hite observed that "Professor Cline taught the kind of lessons that get you more than a job. And he taught the

things that you remember forever — through the way that he lived." In retirement, Paul and Diane Cline live in Venice, Florida, several blocks from the Gulf of Mexico. Cline observes, "I write and Diane edits short stories and reminiscences involving family for our five very dear grandchildren."

In 2016, the Department of Political Science will offer the first annual Dr. Paul C. Cline Scholarship. This need-based scholarship funds engaged learning outside the university, such as conferences, participation in simulations and in internships that might otherwise be beyond the student's means. A campaign is underway to endow this scholarship so that it can be provided in perpetuity. Please contact Michael Speight in University Advancement (speighmj@jmu.edu) for details regarding this scholarship campaign that celebrates Paul Cline's ongoing legacy.

(Below left): The first full-time political science instructor, Paul Cline, taught in Maury Hall for more than a quarter of a century.



JMU students making a difference

BY JONESIA PEARSON ('17M) AND LILI PEASLEE

The lives of hundreds of children in the local community are changing for the better due to the continuing commitment of JMU students. Last year, more than 440 JMU students volunteered as Big Brothers or Big Sisters with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County. BBBS is a national one-on-one mentoring program for at-risk youth that has been serving the area for over 40 years. JMU students make up 70 percent of the agency's volunteer mentors and enable them to serve annually more children than any other BBBS agency in the state.

Student volunteers must commit to spending at least one hour per week with their "Littles" for a minimum of three semesters, building relationships in either a school-based or community setting. The dedication of JMU students to serving their community has not gone unnoticed. In 2015, the JMU student chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters was awarded the 2015 Governor's Award for Volunteerism and Community Service in the Education Institution category. The student organization serves as the leadership body for JMU volunteers and is a focal point on campus for recruiting new mentors, supporting JMU Bigs, and helping with agency fundraising. BBBSHR has traditionally served children ages 5-14 through relatively unstructured, relationship-driven programs; however, volunteer support has enabled them to expand programming to further the organization's mission. A new Enhanced School-Based Mentoring Program, part of a community-based initiative funded by the United Way, adds a literacy component for students in pre-K through second grade. The Young Woman's Leadership Program combines one-on-one mentoring with group activities to provide middle-school girls with leadership and positive youth-development opportunities.

In addition to serving as mentors, JMU faculty and students have expanded the relationship with BBBSHR in recent years. Most nota-



(Above L-R): JMU Student Chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisor Dr. Kevin Hardwick, BBBS Director of Programs Rebecca Barge, BBBS Executive Director Susan Totty, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Dorothy McAuliffe, JMU Student Chapter of BBBS President Maggie Prescott ('16), JMU Student Chapter of BBBS Vice President Julie McNally ('15) and Big Brother Tim Geiling ('16). (Left): Big Sister Olivia Craig ('16) with Little Sister Kadaya.

bly, in 2011 and 2013 Dr. Lili Peaslee and Dr. Amanda Cleveland Teye were awarded two major grants from the

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. With graduate assistants from the JMU Master of Public Administration program, research focuses on how to improve the quality of BBBS programming and strives to better understand the long-term impact of mentoring. The team also provides BBBSHR with research support for the Enhanced School-Based Mentoring and Young Women's Leadership programs. Collaboration with BBBSHR has expanded research opportunities for JMU MPA students not just through graduate assistantships but through applied learning in the classroom. Students in Dr. Teye's two-part methods and program evaluation class are learning and applying evaluation techniques in a real-world setting by assisting in the evaluation of the Enhanced School-Based Mentoring Program.

The expanding relationship between JMU students, faculty and Big Brothers Big Sisters is a great example of the principle of reciprocity at the heart of effective university-community engagement. Not only have thousands of JMU students helped improve their local community for the better, but this partnership has also enhanced the personal, educational and professional development of students themselves. **P**

→ **LEARN MORE** at www.bbbs.org to find your local Big Brothers Big Sisters and start something big for kids in your community by getting involved.

Political Science Faculty News & Notes

Melinda Adams' article, "Assessing Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Presidency: Effects on Substantive Representation," will appear in *Women Presidents and Prime Ministers in Post-Transition Democracies* (Palgrave Macmillan), edited by Verónica Montecinos. Dr. Adams' article, "Context and Gendered Media Frames: The Case of Liberia," is forthcoming in *Politics & Gender*. She also received a small research grant from the American Political Science Association to carry out field research in Ghana in November 2015.

Andreas Broscheid published "Team-Based Learning in a Large Introductory U.S. Government Class" in the *Journal of Political Science Education* and "Designing Team-Based Learning Activities" in *Handbook on Teaching and Learning in Political Science and International Relations*, edited by John Ishiyama, William J. Miller and Eszter Simon (Edward Elgar, 2015).

Jie Chen is the dean of The Graduate School and a tenured political science professor. Before joining JMU, he was the William Borah Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the dean of the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Idaho. He holds the titles of the Changjiang Scholar Chair Professorship and Zhiyuan Chair Professorship bestowed, respectively, by the Ministry of Education, PRC, and by Shanghai Jiaotong University, China. He was a Fulbright Scholar conducting survey research in China and a residential research fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Dr. Chen has authored or co-authored seven books on Chinese politics and U.S. foreign policy. His most recent books include *Allies of the State: China's Private Entrepreneurs and Democratic Change* (co-authored with Bruce Dickson, Harvard University Press, 2010) and *A Middle Class without Democracy: Economic Growth and the*

Prospects for Democratization in China (Oxford University Press, 2013). He has also authored and co-authored many refereed articles on contemporary Chinese politics.

Kerry Crawford was selected as the recipient of the 2015–2016 James N. Rosenau Postdoctoral Fellowship, awarded by the International Studies Association. This \$50,000 fellowship was awarded by an ISA committee based on the quality of the research proposal (intellectual merit and substantive importance of the topic), the potential for making significant scholarly contributions and the promise of impact on the field.

Kathleen Ferraiolo has been named the 2016 recipient of the General Education Distinguished Teacher Award. The selection is based on reviews of teaching by colleagues and by students, as well as of other materials submitted by the nominees.

John Hulsey published "Electoral Accountability in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Dayton Framework Agreement" in *International Peacekeeping* in 2015 and "Party Politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina" in *State-Building and Democratization in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Ashgate, 2015), edited by Soeren Keil and Valery Perry. Dr. Hulsey also gave a public talk titled "U.S. Public Policy Addressing Inequality: Is Europe a Role Model?" in Graz Austria at the Center for Inter-American Studies at Karl-Franzens University in Graz, Austria, on May 27, 2015.

Jonathan Keller and **Yi Edward Yang** published their article, "Problem Representation, Option Generation, and Poliheuristic Theory: An Experimental Analysis," in *Political Psychology* in 2015.

Under Director **Kenneth Rutherford**, the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery

staff performed work on 11 grants or contractual tasks during FY2015. The center was highly successful in accomplishing diverse tasks and in obtaining high-profile contracts and grants. The center hired approximately 20 JMU students, including POSC majors and minors, and four JMU faculty members. One of these students was an MPA student employed as a graduate assistant that was made possible with tuition support from The Graduate School.

John Scherpereel has been named a recipient of a Vision Mini-Grant from the Faculty Senate. The \$3,240 grant will support the pilot creation of a European Union Policy Studies internship opportunity in Kosovo in 2016.

Nicholas (Nick) Swartz, former JMU MPA director, has accepted the position of associate vice provost of research advancement and corporate and government relations within JMU's Office of Research and Scholarship. In this role, Dr. Swartz, who joined the Department of Political Science in 2008, will work closely with private-sector, nonprofit and government entities to enhance research and engagement opportunities for JMU faculty and students. In addition, he will coordinate the activities of JMU Centers and Institutes and will continue to serve as the director of the Madison Center for Community Development.

Amanda C. Teye and **Liliokanaio Peaslee** published "Measuring Educational Outcomes for At-Risk Children and Youth: Issues with the Validity of Self-Reported Data" in *Child & Youth Care Forum* in 2015.

In 2015, **Yi Edward Yang** and **Xinsheng Liu** published "Examining China's Official Media Perception of the United States: a Content Analysis of People's Daily Coverage" in the *Journal of Chinese Political Science*.

See what political science emeriti faculty are doing at www.jmu.edu/polisci/emeriti/index.html

ARE YOU CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL?

The JMU Department of Political Science offers two master's degree programs: **Public Administration** and **Political Science** with a concentration in European Union policy studies.

To learn more about these degree programs, go to: www.jmu.edu/mpa or www.jmu.edu/eupolicystudies

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Tell us more about yourself so we can include your news and information in future editions of the newsletter.

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Class Notes & Alumni News

84 Kimberly Scott is president of ConklinScott, a Democratic political consulting firm specializing in national political and governmental affairs, campaign strategy, fundraising and labor relations. In October 2015 she re-launched DemList, the free, national network, calendar and online resource for Democratic activists, leaders, party committees, supporters and allies.

97 In January 2015 **Gary Marx** was named senior advisor to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's political committee.

02 Ashley Basmajian and **Aaron Basmajian** welcomed a baby girl in October 2014.

07 Jeffrey Bean serves as the editor of the Asia Policy Blog for the nonpartisan Washington, D.C., think tank the Center for Strategic and International Studies, with responsibility for researching and tracking developments in security, economic and foreign policy across the Asia-Pacific region; managing projects on Asian regional security

architecture, U.S.-China relations and U.S. foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific; and writing and editing blog posts that provide policy recommendations on these issues.

10 Ashley Hudson graduated cum laude from the American University Washington College of Law in May 2015. * **Jamie Jackson** oversees video content for the Daily Signal in Washington D.C., which was launched in June 2014 as the multimedia news organization of The Heritage Foundation. **Wesley Mitchell** married **Cara Perrone** ('08) in July 2015.

11 Courtney Bernet earned a Master of Public Administration and Emergency Management and Master Certificate of Cybersecurity from George Mason University. She recently began a new job at Obsidian Analysis, working in her goal career field of emergency planning. * **Grant Kidwell** joined Americans for Prosperity as a senior policy analyst and will be working on energy issues.

13 As manager of government relations at Madison Services Group, **Abby**

Ware serves as the lead on trade policy and capital access issues affecting small businesses with a focus on minority- and women-owned small businesses; delivers legislative analysis and day-to-day coverage of congressional activity; and provides government relations services to corporate and nonprofit clients in the small business community. "On top of enabling me with the skills and knowledge to succeed," she writes, "JMU prepared me to be a community-oriented, conscientious individual in both my personal and professional life. These values transcend a traditional college experience."

Student News

Claire Elverum ('16) received a \$30,000 Rotary scholarship to support graduate study. Claire will begin a master's degree program at SOAS in the United Kingdom in September 2016. * **Jason Mann** ('16) and **Megan Hinton** ('16) were selected as Fulbright Scholar Program semifinalists.