

# FEDERAL & GLOBAL TIMES

*Connecting Federal Fellows and Global Fellows Alumni Since 2014*



## Letter from the Director

*Dr. Joan Burton, Program Director*

### SPRING 2016

#### 1: LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Program Director Dr. Joan Burton announces exciting changes to the programs.

#### 2: BY THE NUMBERS

Track the Federal and Global Fellows Programs' explosive growth in the past ten years.

#### 3: FEDERAL ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Program alumnus Mike Penansky, Special Assistant at DOE, talks about how hard work and luck can pay off.

#### 4: GLOBAL ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Program alumnus Jonathan Lee talks about his experience with the Peace Corps in Lesotho.

#### 5: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Join Laura Garvie as she interns abroad at the U.S. Delegation to UNESCO in Paris.

#### FACULTY PROFILE

The professor for the Homeland Security Concentration, Magdalena Bajjl, talks about her experiences.

#### 6: FEATURED SCHOLARS

Gain a glimpse of awards recently received by current students and alumni

#### 7: ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Learn how to get involved!

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The past year has been one of the most exciting in program history. Not only did we serve a record number of students, with 128 young professionals enrolled in six individual concentration areas, we have also changed our program names! To better honor our remarkable participants and reflect the ongoing empowerment and fellowship these programs provide, we have removed the word "Semester." The programs are now officially called "Federal Fellows" and "Global Fellows in Washington, DC," and we are proud to recognize you all as glorious fellows of these programs.



This year also saw the launch of the new Alumni Mentorship Program. The brainchild of Alumni Board President Lauren Greeley and Program Coordinator Naz Beyranvand, the Alumni Mentorship Program paired 11 talented alumni with 17 current students, matched for their professional interests. The goal was to have the mentors serve as a bridge to the professional world, offering advice on career paths and professional opportunities. The pilot was wildly successful, and starting in fall 2016, we hope to

open the experience to more students and engage more alumni in this exciting venture. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lauren or Naz as soon as possible (see page 7)!

I am also delighted to announce that the new, 2016-2017 cohort of fellows is going to be our largest yet, with the addition of an important new concentration in "Critical Regions and International Relations." This concentration is the result of a grand collaboration between the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the Office of International Affairs, and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Whether you are a recent fellow or a more seasoned alum, please keep in touch. We are eager to hear your news and to support you in any way we can. You are a Federal or Global Fellow for life. Visit the office! Network with your fellows! Share ideas and suggestions for future alumni activities! We hope to hear from you soon.

With warm regards,

Dr. Joan Burton, Director  
Federal Fellows  
Global Fellows in Washington, DC

### FEDERAL & GLOBAL FELLOWS STAFF



**Dr. Joan Burton**  
Director

**Jay Arasan**  
Assistant Director

**Naz Beyranvand**  
Coordinator



**Tommy Minter**  
GA; Newsletter Editor



**Nai Le**  
Incoming GA



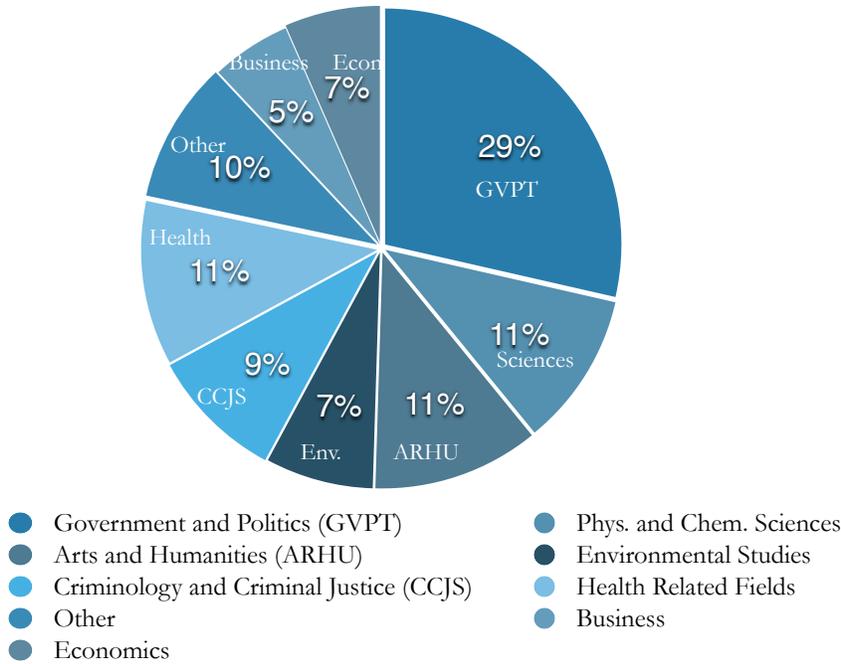
**Mirish Shah**  
Incoming GA



# FELLOWS BY THE NUMBERS

*A quantitative breakdown of the Federal Fellows and Global Fellows programs, 2008-present*

**Breakdown of Student Majors**



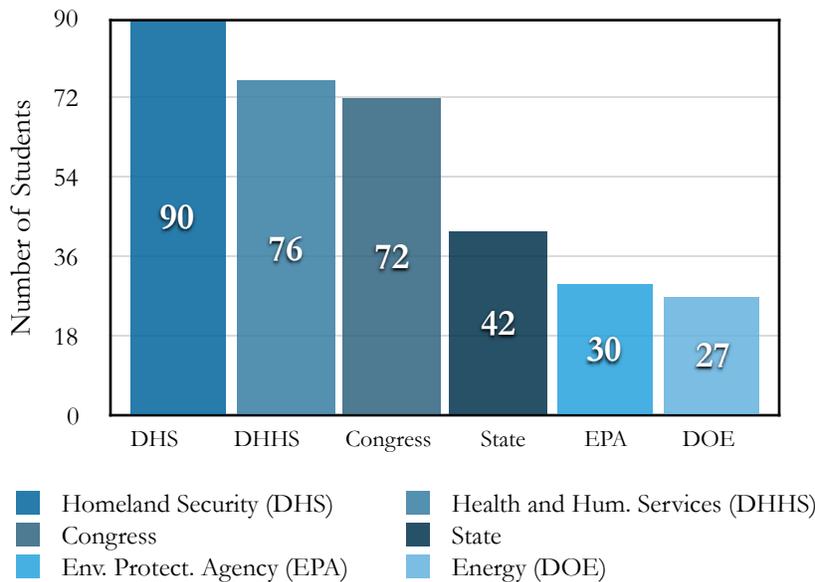
**FEDERAL &  
GLOBAL  
FELLOWS  
NETWORK**

**800+**  
Program Alumni and  
Current Students

**350+**  
Different Internship  
Locations

**4**  
Program Staff &  
Assistants

**Top Internship Placements**





Mike leads a White House Internship Tips Workshop for the 2015-2016 cohort.

# Federal Alumnus Spotlight

**Mike Penansky - Special Assistant, DOE**

## *How have you been able to obtain employment?*

Becoming a Schedule-C political appointee is a lot of luck, but it also requires maximizing the opportunities you're given. During my internship in the Office of public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House, I capitalized on networking opportunities with members of the Presidential Personnel Office (PPO). As an intern, I participated in an LGBT policy working group out of interest in learning a new issue area. At one of the meetings, the PPO team leader for the Energy and Environment section spoke about her experiences and career path. I immediately recognized the opportunity that fell into my lap, and, at the end of the session, asked her to grab a cup of coffee. Essentially, I was in the right place at the right time for an entry-level political appointment.



## *How did your Federal Fellows experience prepare you to take on post-graduate life?*

The Federal Fellows program helped me in two different ways. The seminar allowed me to connect with professionals from the industry space I was looking to move into following graduation. Additionally, the class' focus on international climate policy and negotiation was incredibly helpful in preparing me for the type of work I encountered at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. There was a significant nexus

between my coursework and real world applications. From a practical standpoint, the professional skills I developed in the program were invaluable. Whether it was approaching people for informational interviews, or how to leave a great impression - you can always sharpen your skills no matter where you are in your career.

## *What advice would you give to young professionals?*

One of the most important things is to take risks. You need to put yourself out there and get outside of your comfort zone. Quickly identify yourself as a go-getter who is willing to work for it. Find a project, or something that is not getting enough attention at your organization and crush it. Seize on the opportunities that are given to you, and look for ones that are not immediately apparent. Don't go to your internship and just hang out because people do notice - you want to stand out for the right reasons, and incentivize people to invest in you.

## *From your perspective, what does it take to be a young leader?*

Leading by example is what I have found most effective. As you take on more meaningful work and demonstrate that you are willing to go the extra mile, and are capable of delivering for your boss(es), you will slowly earn people's respect.

## *What's something you wish you had known five years ago?*

This is going to sound really corny, but don't plan everything out. I am a planner by nature and am always

**ABOUT MIKE**

**GRADUATION YEAR:**  
2014

**MAJOR:**  
Environmental Science and Policy

**FEDERAL FELLOWS CONCENTRATION:**  
Energy and Environment ('14)

**INTERNSHIP SITE:**  
White House Council on Environmental Quality

**CURRENT OCCUPATION**  
Political Appointee - Special Assistant, U.S. Department of Energy

thinking about what my next steps are, but I can't tell you how many times I have planned the next several years, only to rip those plans up a month later. There are many things you cannot plan in life - you just need to let them happen. If you are willing to work for them - they will come. People will notice, and they will invest in you and your development. If you are focused on the mission and less so on your end goals, you will be successful and accomplish what you want.



Jonathan with his host mother on the day of his official Peace Corps graduation.

# Global Alumnus Spotlight

## Jonathan Lee - Peace Corps, Lesotho

**Can you talk a little about your Peace Corps position? What does a “day in Lesotho” look like?**

I wake up with the rising sun to the sound of donkeys and chickens outside my rondaval. Soon, I walk up my village’s hill to the primary school where I teach English and Lifeskills, a course on health and interpersonal skills. I teach two or three classes a day with Grades 5, 6, and 7. When I’m not teaching, I’m helping my colleagues through observation and exchanging teaching techniques, or helping a younger remedial English course. In addition, I expect to be starting my secondary project in a few months, a community-wide initiative based on the expressed needs of the villagers. After school, we have school-wide practices for track, dance, soccer, or netball. After practice, I return home and go out to gather water from the village tap and write my lesson plans. Sometimes, students will stop by for help on homework, or I’ll talk with my host father as he is looking over his prized pigs. Soon, it is dark and I’m cooking by candlelight, staring at the stars overhead, looking forward to the next day.

**How did your Global Fellows Experience Prepare you for your position?**

Global Fellows really prepared me to think about the connections between countries, organizations, and people on an international scale. The course taught me about the merging of diplomatic topics with environmental, health and technological issues - giving me practice in seeing the world through a wider lens. That course gave me a foundation on how to approach the issues prevalent in Lesotho and with my students. Additionally, I was able to enhance workplace skills. Punctuality, attention to detail, brevity, and clearness in writing all make a huge difference as a professional.

**What advice would you give students thinking about joining the Peace Corps?**

Do research on what programs and countries you might be interested in and what matches your experiences. Study up on foreign languages - all international experience will shine on an application. If you don’t get a preferred country, don’t worry! Peace Corps supplements your knowledge with technical and cultural training for your first few



months in country. The Peace Corps experience is something unique; the work you do requires independence, resilience, teamwork, a willingness to learn new things, and a host of other skills that can be applied to nearly any field you pursue after service.

**What does “public service” mean to you?**

At its roots, public service means doing something that meets the needs of a wider community. Successful public service can be done anywhere and in many different capacities, but it should keep in mind the voice and agency of the community that it’s benefitting. Sustainability, in both a financial and a human capacity sense, is a key to success in these cases.

**What is something you wish you had known five years ago?**

### ABOUT JON

**GRADUATION YEAR:**  
2015

**MAJOR(S):**  
Government and Politics;  
Communication

**GLOBAL FELLOWS  
CONCENTRATION:**  
Science Diplomacy ('14)

**INTERNSHIP SITE:**  
DHHS, Office of the Assistant  
Secretary for Preparedness  
and Response

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:**  
Peace Corps Member in  
Lesotho, Africa

I would have told myself to calm down, don’t be afraid to put yourself out there or try new things while you’re in college, and to enjoy the next four years. I’d tell myself to get to know more people around me, both in college and in my work experiences, to build my social network and support system that have been so amazing now that I am abroad. I wouldn’t have traded any of my explorations, or unrelated-to-my-major (but interesting) classes, or my abroad experiences for anything, but I would have loved to do more of everything. That’s the thing about college, especially at UMD and with Global Fellows: there’s just so many things that you can do, and sometimes just not enough time to do it all - so there is no time to waste and you just have to get out there!



## 2016 Student Spotlight:

*Laura Garvie (Science Diplomacy '15)*

Major: Geographical Sciences

Graduating Class: 2016

Internship Location: U.S. Delegation to UNESCO in Paris

### **What is your office's mission?**

At the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it is our mission to accurately represent the U.S. Government internationally. There are about 10 of us here in Paris and together, we work to advance the president's priorities, as well as his vision, to promote human rights, tolerance, and learning throughout the world.

### **What has been the most interesting part about interning abroad?**

This is not my first time living in France so I don't have as many funny cultural anecdotes as I should. It has however, been interesting to compare workplace cultures here in Paris to Washington, DC. Attitudes towards work are completely different, with an emphasis on working smart and for fewer hours among the French. Long lunch breaks are made for eating out and indulging in a bottle of red wine, or two. Even on the most stressful days, no one in France forgets to enjoy the small pleasures in life.

### **What has been the most rewarding part of your experience?**

At UNESCO, 195 different countries come together and find a common language and find that peace is possible in the world. The work being done here is the result of collaboration across cultures and languages. I feel a sense of belonging to this organization of

such power and meaningful work, which is by far the most rewarding part of my experience here in Paris. Within the U.S. delegation as well, there is a real sense of family and acceptance.

### **What has been the most helpful aspect of the Global Fellows program for you?**

It is entirely thanks to Dr. Burton and her team that I have realized my full potential here and challenged, pushed, and believed in myself enough to pursue opportunities, I otherwise never would have dreamed of. The friendly faces in the office and their eagerness to help do not go unnoticed, nor does the sense of community so deeply felt across the whole program.

### **What do you think makes the Global Fellows program unique?**

The program is unique in that, unlike other specific programs at UMD, it would be enriching for any student, regardless of major or interest. The program is set up to reach any student driven to push themselves beyond their studies. Global Fellows affords students the opportunity to see what they are interested in and gain valuable experience and skills unattainable in a classroom or living and learning program. It offers that real world experience that employers are looking for and the ability to take advantage of being an undergraduate student in such a well-positioned location.

## Faculty Profile: Magdalena Bajll

National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Senior National Intelligence Service Officer;

Homeland Security Policy Instructor

*Photo credit to  
Catherine Simmons*



### **What is your current job, and how did you arrive there?**

I am a Senior National Intelligence Service Officer at NCTC, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In my current position, I guide the development of strategic plans in support of the U.S. Government counterterrorism and counter violent extremism goals against emergent threats. I joined the Center in 2010 after almost a decade of service at the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security (DOJ and DHS).

### **What was your first professional job?**

After graduating from Georgetown's Master of Science in Foreign Service program, I started my career at a consulting company focusing on counterterrorism, national preparedness, and defense projects for the U.S. Government. It was a great opportunity to gain valuable expertise and start developing my professional network. This led to my career in the government - my DOJ clients liked my work and encouraged me to apply.

### **What advice do you have for young professionals today?**

Early in your career is the best time to explore as many different opportunities as you can so do not limit your options. Be determined and patient while looking for a job, especially in the government - everything takes time. In any position, work your hardest and smartest - people will notice, you will develop a solid

reputation, and you will be sought after for other opportunities and positions. Finally, have humility and willingness to learn.

### **How does the Federal and Global Fellows programs prepare students for a career in public service?**

I think the programs offer an incredible opportunity for students and prepares them well for any career. In today's competitive job market, being able to learn from professionals gives these students an advantage over their peers. In my course, I put emphasis not only on gaining knowledge but also on developing skills and abilities that will help students succeed in future work environments.

### **How do you find teaching at the University of Maryland?**

Teaching at UMD is exceptionally rewarding. I love being able to mentor students and shape the minds of the future. It is an opportunity to give back - I have had amazing mentors through my career and I know how impactful they have been for my professional growth. Every year, I am more and more impressed with the quality of students - they are incredibly smart, mature, and determined. I also like staying in touch with my students, continue to help them, and see how their careers progress.

# FEATURED SCHOLARS

*Honoring a Sampling of Awards Recently Received by Students and Alumni*



**Jessica Liu (U.S. Diplomacy '15)**  
Martin Meskowitz Award for Public Service



**Rachel O'Meara (U.S. Diplomacy '15)**  
2016-2017 Fulbright Assistantship  
*Taiwan*



**Tristan Marquez (Science Diplomacy '16)**  
David L. Boren Scholarship  
*São Paulo, Brazil*



**Aaron Bhatt (Science Diplomacy '14)**  
David L. Boren Scholarship  
*Meekness, Morocco*



**Sarahann Yeh (Science Diplomacy '15)**  
Fulbright Assistantship  
*Indonesia*



**Emily Hurwitz (Public Health Policy '12)**  
Presidential Management Fellow Finalist



**Mohammad Zia (U.S. Diplomacy '12)**  
Luce Scholarship  
*Indonesia/Malaysia*



**Megan Druss (Homeland Security '16)**  
David L. Boren Scholarship  
*Meekness, Morocco*

# ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

*Ways to get involved, contact information, and features from the Mentorship Program*



*The 2015-2016 pilot Alumni Mentorship Program culminated in a joint mentor/mentee dinner, pictured above.*

## Special thanks to all of our amazing Alumni Mentors this year!

Joel Cohen  
 Lauren Greeley  
 Nikita Kandpal  
 Jennifer Kulp  
 Joanna Luu  
 Mike Ng  
 Amanda Obenland  
 Joseph Park  
 Mike Penansky  
 Jessica Preusch  
 Pamitha Weerasinghe

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR?

- If interested in becoming an Alumni Mentor or have ideas for the Alumni Board, please contact Board President Lauren Greeley at: [ljgreeley07@gmail.com](mailto:ljgreeley07@gmail.com)
- Send news, opportunities, and suggestions for our next newsletter to Program Coordinator Naz Beyranvand at: [nbeyran@umd.edu](mailto:nbeyran@umd.edu)