ABs to CVs: Government Alumni Career Paths

Academia
Business
Education
Government
Jack of All Trades
Law
Media
Medicine
Military

Academia

_Dara L. Sosulski, ‘03_: I had always harbored substantially wide-ranging academic interests, so when I arrived at Harvard, I was unsure about which concentration to choose—I had serious interests in political philosophy, biology, literature, and writing. Ultimately, I decided to pursue a degree in Government, because the concentration gave me the opportunity to study all of the aforementioned—some within the confines of my concentration requirements, and some within the generous time the government concentration allows for elective courses. I am now a Ph.D candidate in the department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Columbia University, doing my thesis research in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Richard Axel, MD. My studies in government gave me a solid footing in the analytical reading and clear, direct writing skills critical for a successful career in science, and I will always be grateful to the government program for giving me the opportunity to sample many courses from other departments as well.

_Alex Kuo, ‘01_: After graduation I worked for one year as a Junior Fellow for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC. During my time in DC I decided to apply to doctoral programs in political science. I am currently working towards a PhD at Stanford University, researching and writing my dissertation. I enjoyed being a Government concentrator, and through classes and friendships I became exposed to a wide variety of possible career and job choices.

_Ragan Buckley, ‘00_: I am following a career path that’s probably not very typical for a Government graduate – I’m working on my Ph.D. in biochemistry! However, I believe that my course work in the Government department is benefiting me as I pursue a career in the sciences. First, I feel that fulfilling the Government concentration requirements imparted me with a high level of oral and written communication skills. These are skills which will be important as I write grant proposals and papers for journals, and when I present my research at conferences. I might not have learned how to communicate as well, had I not had courses where discussion and papers were the primary means of determining a grade. Second, I believe the Government degree showed graduate
admissions committees that I was well-rounded and able to excel at high-level courses in the social sciences as well as the physical and life sciences. I’m sure it also helped raise my score on the verbal section of the GRE! Third, I have chosen to do my graduate research on the origin of life and chemical evolution. I know this has been controversial in the courts as well as in the public mind, and I feel that I have a better ability to understand the interplay among science, the public, and government – in my field and in others – than someone who focused solely on science courses. Finally, while I am not yet actually in the workforce, I feel that my Government degree will be beneficial to me in the future. I plan to pursue a faculty career at a research university after I obtain my Ph.D., and I hope to be able to use the knowledge gained while pursuing my undergraduate government degree to obtain higher levels of funding for science in general, through work with local Senators and Representatives, state government, and federal agencies.

Aditi Baqchi ’99: I graduated in 1999 after concentrating in Government and Philosophy. I seized as many opportunities as possible to study moral and political theory, as well as comparative political economy, and am now in a position to appreciate the quality of that education. I enjoyed many aspects of my time at Harvard, which was a formative period, but my academic experience in the government program in particular continues to inform my professional work. After obtaining a masters, attending law school, clerking, and practicing, I recently became a law professor. I continue to draw on what I learned as an undergraduate in my current work. Indeed, I think what I learned about politics informs my understanding of many phenomena and is important to my general world view. I feel enormously lucky to have had the opportunity to study with my professors at Harvard and am delighted to be assigning some of their writing in the classes that I now teach.

Jamie Markham ’99: After graduation I served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force for 5 years, mostly as a political-military analyst of Russia and the Former Soviet Union. I left the military as a captain to go to law school at Duke, and I am now an assistant professor of public law and government at the University of North Carolina School of Government in Chapel Hill. I teach and write on criminal law and procedure, with a focus on sentencing and corrections.

Marriah Star, ’98: Unlike other Government concentrators, my career path has been somewhat unconventional. The typical Government alumnus may spend a few years after college working, but the destination is law school, and then practice at a law firm, or teaching at a law school. I love legal thought, but I hate the legal lifestyle. I do not want to put in 80+ hours a week to become a partner at a law firm. Instead, I would much rather have control over my time. So I went into academia. I paid off my college loans in three years with the help of my wife and entered the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) for a Ph.D. in political science. My Harvard training helped me as I was able to ace many courses and pass the qualifying exams with honors.
after only 3 semesters. I immediately started teaching as an Adjunct Lecturer in the CUNY system. My first couple courses were at Lehman College, but over the past 3 years, mainly because of fatherhood, I now teach four or five classes a semester at different CUNY and non-CUNY colleges. These include Hunter College, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Pace University, Borough of Manhattan Community College, LaGuardia Community College, and Hostos Community College. Lehman College has given me the opportunity to turn into a pundit as I now appear regularly on Bronxnet, channel 67, in New York, on a show called "Open". Finally, I use my multiple positions in CUNY to tap into the non-profit community and social entrepreneurism. This community provides guest speakers for Lehman College and CUNY. My mission as a teacher is to turn my students into skilled civic activists. I expect my Ph.D. by the end of 2008.

Daniel Nexon, '95: I'm now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. After graduating from Harvard, I immediately embarked on the path to a PhD at Columbia University. I study a range of subjects, but I currently focus on historical patterns of religious politics and the dynamics of empires. I also do side work on popular culture and world politics. My current areas of interest bear only a passing resemblance to the subject matter of my Senior Thesis; yet researching and writing my thesis provided me with excellent preparation for graduate school. I have two pieces of advice for current undergraduates contemplating an academic career in Political Science. First, don't follow my example! Unless you are absolutely certain you want to be a professor, take at least a year or two off from school before pursuing a graduate degree. The first two years of graduate school are a lot like college, particularly a college at the level of Harvard, and you may find yourself a little disappointed... and even a bit burned out. Second, start bugging your professors as soon as possible. It is all too easy to float through Harvard without getting to know them, but they'll be your best resource for understanding what is involved in getting a doctorate. I still look up to the many brilliant scholars--most of them still at Harvard--who took me under their wing.

Richard Amesbury, '94: I am currently Associate Professor of Ethics at the Claremont School of Theology and Associate Professor of Religion at Claremont Graduate University in California. As a teacher and scholar I work at the intersection of ethics, political theory, and philosophy of religion. My publications include Faith and Human Rights (Fortress Press, 2008) and Morality and Social Criticism (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

After graduating from Harvard, I taught high school for two years on the island of Guam, where I grew up. An interest in religion prompted me to pursue graduate studies, and I ended up getting a Diploma in Theology from the University of Oxford and a PhD in Religion from Claremont Graduate University. I taught for a year at Harvey Mudd College before accepting my first tenure-track appointment at Valdosta State University
in Georgia, where I spent the next four years. I have recently returned to Claremont to teach in the joint CST/CGU graduate program in religious studies.

My undergraduate education in government continues to be an invaluable asset which informs my thinking about a wide range of issues, including the relation between religion and human rights, the place of religion in liberal democracies, and the implications of religious plurality. Moreover, the academic skills I acquired as an undergraduate and continue to use every day – analysis of arguments, debate, writing – are among the tools I try to pass on to my own students. Even more valuable than knowledge and skills, however, are the intellectual virtues that my professors in the Government Department helped to cultivate – virtues such as curiosity, discipline, openness to criticism, humor, honesty, and imagination.

James Fowler, ’92: As an undergraduate at Harvard I concentrated in Government and graduated in 1992. One thing that I really liked about the concentration was its flexibility -- I had very interdisciplinary interests, and it was easy to satisfy these in the Government department. Right after graduation, I joined the Peace Corps and lived in Ecuador for two years, building water systems and latrines in cholera-striken areas of the rural Andes. During this time I observed that some communities were able to work together to help themselves when given a little support, while others were completely dysfunctional. I also observed this pattern when I traveled in several other counties in Latin America after Peace Corps. This experience sparked my interest in returning to graduate school to study development and political participation. I was not sure if I wanted to continue in the aid community or in academia, so I entered the MA program in International Relations at Yale in 1995. During my two years in New Haven I became even more interested in studying political participation, so I chose to apply to PhD programs in political science. I was also curious about whether my experiences from Latin America were generalizable, so in 1997 and 1998 I spent nine months traveling in Asia. Once again, I observed functional and dysfunctional communities and wondered what might be causing their success and failure. Upon returning, I entered the PhD program in Government at Harvard. During my five years there, my interest gradually became more abstract, and I shifted from the study of development in Latin America to the study of political participation more generally. In 2003 I graduated and started my first job at the University of California, Davis. I published several articles about political participation and cooperation, and I was granted tenure in two and a half years. This attracted the attention of several other departments, and in 2006 I moved to the University of California, San Diego, which is a top 10 department for political science. I recently have become even more interdisciplinary in my interests, publishing articles in Nature, and the New England Journal of Medicine. Thanks in large part to the early training I received as an undergraduate at Harvard, I've always thought of political science as a very big tent where ideas from many other disciplines can commingle and recombine to advance not just our understanding of politics, but our understanding of many other fields, as well.
Business

Lonnie A. Jaffe, '99: I graduated from Harvard in 1999 with both an undergraduate degree in Government and a Masters degree in History of Science (I did Harvard's 4-year Advanced Standing AB/AM program), and started with IBM on an assignment in Paris, France, doing business development work with IBM's large French banking customers (and learning French). In the midst of the dot-com collapse, I was brought into the IBM's executive resource program and promoted to management, and since then have held various senior-level management roles in services, strategy, and business development, while based out of Austin, TX, New York City, and Washington, DC, including managing the Wall Street practice for the WebSphere Services organization of IBM Software Group, and running the 3rd-line organization of a team of senior managers, consultants, and sales reps responsible software services in the U.S. Federal account for IBM, working on cutting-edge government projects in the intelligence, military, and civilian space. I just completed the IBM Acquisition Executive Leadership Program, designed to prepare high-potential IBM executives to successfully lead the end-to-end integration of the acquisitions IBM is planning to make over the next few years, and I am currently finishing up an executive development position at IBM as the Technical Assistant and Chief of Staff for the VP of WebSphere Development and Product Management for IBM. Over the past 8 years, I have found my degree in Government from Harvard and my experience as an undergraduate to be incredibly valuable and versatile.

Johanna Klein, '98: I concentrated in Government as a result of a long interest in international relations and Asian studies, and a desire for a broad concentration that would let me keep a lot of options open. After graduation, I did a masters degree at the London School of Economics (1999), and then tried out investment banking (CSFB, 2000), project management at a dotcom (2001-02), and microfinance (Deutsche Bank Microcredit Development Fund, 2003). I then got an MBA at MIT Sloan (class of 2005), following which I took a job at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippines, where I work on transactions to fund private sector financial institutions throughout Asia's emerging economies.

In figuring out how to combine my interests in international relations and finance, I explored a bunch of different environments – academia, Wall Street, dotcomming, b school, and international development. Majoring in Government helped me gain access to all of these highly diverse opportunities – by teaching me to write, analyze problems, present arguments concisely, etc. I think that my post-graduation trajectory is evidence that with a Government degree, you can do many different things (it truly does let you keep a lot of options open) – the real challenge is figuring out what direction you want to take!

Harry Kargman, '97: I was always interested in Government and technology and spent a good amount of time learning programming as a Computer Science Concentrator (prior to
switching to the dark side of the Gov dept). This switch was due to being a more social animal than many of my CS peers. It actually worked out quite nicely as I ended up marrying the critical thinking and global understanding that comes from a Government Concentration with the nitty gritty detail and analytical qualities of Computer Science. Upon graduating, I was able to use the overall analytical skills from my Government background to think critically about investments and business strategies. Having spent a summer at Intel in its venture capital group, I landed a job at Intertainer, a startup that Intel funded when I was there. After spending a year working on business strategy for the video on demand and interactive television company in Los Angeles, I left and started my own wireless media company, Kargo. In 2000, I moved to New York and have been building Kargo ever since. It has been a wild ride. I was able to weather the downturn in 2000 and 2001 and have emerged profitable. The good news is that even Government Concentrators can be successful in the having “a life” area and I am now married with two children (a third on the way) and live in New York City.

Spencer Rascoff, ’97: I graduated from Harvard in 1997 with a degree in Government. I never really intended to work in Government, but I chose that concentration because I thought it balanced history, politics and economics, and it seemed more practical than academic. After Harvard, I went to Wall Street and was an analyst at Goldman Sachs in the Mergers & Acquisitions Investment Banking group. After two years at GS, I moved to San Francisco to work as a private equity investor at Texas Pacific Group. While at TPG, I co-founded an online travel company called Hotwire.com. I held a variety of positions at Hotwire, including running the hotel business. Four years later we sold Hotwire to Expedia, and I moved to Seattle where I ran the hotel supplier relations group for Expedia. In 2005, I left Expedia to join a group of former Expedia executives starting a new company called Zillow.com. Today, I’m CFO and VP Marketing at Zillow, one of the largest online real estate companies. Concentrating in Government hasn’t provided me with specific subject matter knowledge that has been relevant to my career. However, my Government training at Harvard did teach me critical thinking, improved my writing ability, and has made me a better public speaker. I’m very grateful to Harvard and my Government professors for my education there. And perhaps most importantly, I met my wife (Nanci Rascoff ’97) at Harvard, and she too concentrated in Government.

Dan Rosenberg, ’96: After graduating in 1996, I joined ASIMCO in Beijing, at the time, that largest private equity firm solely focused on investments in China. As a pre-condition to joining, I was required to take accounting and finance classes over the summer to fill in the gaps of my Government concentration. After two great years there, I returned to New York, did a short stint at HotJobs.com with some Harvard classmates and then moved to Seattle to join Maveron, a new venture capital firm founded by
Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz. After nearly five great years with Maveron, I decided the time was right for a change and came back to Harvard for an MBA and made plans to get back into an operational role, rather than finance. During the summer between first and second year I did a short stint at Virgin Mobile in marketing. After business school I joined a tiny start-up software company called Rave Wireless as Vice President of Business Development, which over the last two years has grown to over 100 employees and raised $40 million in venture capital.

*Melissa Fisher, ’94, HBS ’98:* I believe there is no concentration better than Government to prepare students for any career. A concentration in Government teaches students strong analytical and communication skills in the context through which political events have occurred and are occurring. The critical thinking skills taught in Government are critical to analyzing a situation and developing effective solutions and strong communication skills are a necessary tool for leadership. Furthermore, learning those skills against the backdrop of political theory and history is critical preparation for post-graduate life, in which all of our jobs and lives exist within the context of a global political regime.

I believe that the skill set I learned concentrating in Government at Harvard enabled me to professional success and matriculation at Harvard Business School at a relatively young age. As a senior Mergers & Acquisitions investment banker now, I am required to evaluate complex situations across a variety of industries within the context of the current and future political sphere and the foundation I received as a Government concentrator greatly contributes to my success.

*Ozan T., ’94:* I currently run the Emerging Markets Fixed Income & Foreign Exchange Sales for Deutsche Bank London. Following graduation, I briefly flirted with the idea of studying international law. The mishandling of international institutions of the tragedy in Bosnia at the time made me change my mind. Instead, I began my career in JP Morgan in Emerging Markets research in NYC. In mid 1997, I moved to London to help launch the Turkish local market trading desk of the same company. In fall 1999, we opened up the Istanbul branch of JPM & I moved back home. In early 2001, I transferred to Deutsche Bank and started developing strong relationship with the firm’s hedge fund and real money clients. During the summer of 2004, I moved back to London and switched from a trading role to a sales/marketing role. Since end of 2006, I have been heading this desk. Our job involves covering our clients focused on Emerging Markets in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia for virtually all financial products. My education in Government was instrumental throughout my career in developing a sharper understanding of different countries’ strengths, weaknesses, needs and areas of improvement. Thanks to Harvard government education giving me the right foundation in political economy, I was able to grasp the “big picture” in the often complex environment of global markets and kept a cool head in the ever-volatile world of emerging markets trading. One day, I can still vision myself going back home & serving my country in a role related to international
finance and/or foreign affairs. Coupled with the right courses in math and econometrics, Government provides an ideal platform to launch a career in exciting global markets.

*John (Yannis) T. Triphyllis ’94:* I graduated CLGS in Govt. class of 1994 with a focus on International Relations and Economics. My first job was with an Investment Bank in London where my degree was useful in the analytical approach I applied to corporate strategy and to sectoral trend identifications. In many ways the dispassionate and bureaucratic pursuit self interest of corporations resembles the real politic of nations. As does the scramble for resources/markets, branding/national identity etc.

From 1997 I returned to my homeland of Greece and worked in one of the largest quoted closed end investment funds. However up until the late 90s all global focus was on technology & information advances smoothing and flattening the post cold war world into ONENESS, beyond history. So although my mindset was useful my skill set was not so relevant.

From the early 2000's the world was back to its normal activity of generating conflicts/rebalancing and searching for ideologies (eg.neo-conservatives, eco-capitalism) to explain events and set a course for the future. Issues like corporate accountability/sustainability, pricing of risk, cross cultural differences eg. Asian crash, or New Russia's emergence, Tech bubble, later Terrorism, preemptive wars, energy security and the rise of new superpowers all suddenly were central to any financial decision and a narrow business-type analysis was as hollow as an accountant's ledger and as blunt as his abacus. Finally, being able to get a grasp on the global interplay of power and institutions was paramount.

In 2003 I succumbed to the family tradition and joined our shipping company, representing the 4th generation to do so. I use both my skill and mind set in approaching the truly global shipping market for the transport of commodities and goods and have been greatly assisted by my knowledge of history in identifying the rise of China & India as the basis for a super-cycle similar to the 50s when Europe and Japan were reconstructing after WWII.

But most importantly all the historical & political education/training that I received while at America’s leading knowledge center for government and all liberal arts (at the hands of Joseph Nye, Samuel Huntington, Stanley Hoffman, Alan Dershowitz, etc) has helped me be convinced that our world is at a tipping point of non-sustainability both in terms of resources, environmental conditions, and the global economic system. There will probably "have" to be a major war of some sort within the next 10-20 years in order to redress the cumulating global/national/economic/societal imbalances via what I call the "Great Reset."

If only your great country's leaders had attended (or been able to comprehend) the same classes, the world would indeed be a more rational and balanced place.
As for you, future student, an understanding of the historical impact of the interplays between nations/societies/economics/cultures/ethics as forces that shape events could save your life when in 10-15 years you have to pick a side, vote on a decision, or hide in a bomb shelter....

However, your field of study is less important than what you teach yourself inside. It is merely one of many ways in which to think. You must find the way in which to be.

Knowledge is good, wisdom is better.

**Victor W. Hwang ’93:** I just started a venture capital fund helping to grow new startup companies spinning out of government and academia. Unlike most venture investors who have backgrounds in economics and finance, I come at it with an understanding of how government works, from the appropriation of Congressional dollars for federal R&D, to the allocation of those funds by federal agencies to university researchers, to the growth of new companies based on breakthrough technologies funded by such dollars. We have a real competitive advantage in finding and selecting some of the best new technologies in the world. We are now helping to build new companies in water treatment, alternative energies, diabetes, and other areas that can radically improve lives and create commercial value.

**Robert D. Frost, ’92:** My principal activities while at Harvard were related to my tenure as a manager and subsequently as President of Harvard Student Agencies. Based on those experiences, I thought that I wanted to pursue a career in business management and took a position as an analyst at A.T. Kearney, a large operations and strategy consulting firm. After a few months, I realized that spending the winter in Saginaw, Michigan reviewing the operations of car parts manufacturing might not be the course I wished to pursue. I was fortunate that A.T. Kearney had just formed its Global Business Policy Council to work with the CEOs of the world’s largest corporations on addressing issues of geopolitics and their relevance to the business environment. My three years working on the Council as an analyst and later as its Chief of Staff allowed me to use my Government concentration on a daily basis as I interacted with the President of Mexico, Governor of Hong Kong, Prime Ministers of Hungary and Slovenia, and their respective staffs. I also had the opportunity to work on assignments for foreign governments including advising the government of Slovenia on export and manufacturing strategies. My three years at A.T. Kearney allowed me to combine my Harvard education as a Government concentrator with my interest in business. The only downside was that my boss was a former professor at Yale and Stanford who did not fully appreciate the quality of the Harvard education relative to those institutions.

Although I enjoyed my tenure at A.T. Kearney, I left after three years to obtain my MBA from Columbia. After a few years as an investment banker, I started my own company in 2000 focused on real estate acquisitions as well as corporate real estate consulting in New York. In that capacity I frequently interact with the City and State governments of New
York. While these interactions have a distinctly non-academic tone, it is fair to say that I continue to combine my background as a Government concentrator with my work.

*Stephen Waters, ’68:* Harvard's Government Department was strong in the 1960's. An international relations focus led me to courses by Henry Kissinger, Stanley Hoffman and Sam Huntington. Arthur Maass, Don Price and Richard Neustadt added a U.S. perspective, complemented by John Fairbank, Edwin Reischauer and Gordon Craig on Asia. Graham Allison and Joe Nye were Quincy House gov tutors. What more could one ask?

After Harvard, the Vietnam War brought four years in the Navy, where I got to lead people but was ready to leave on a held-over Knox to Cambridge despite an offer to extend and edit the Joint Chiefs' papers to the President. HBS and Lehman Brothers followed, where I was lucky to help found an M & A department before mergers were "hot". Then came a similar chance to run Morgan Stanley's M & A business and subsequently all of Europe for the firm while on its global operating committee. There can only be one CEO at a company, so I left to found Compass, a multinational merchant bank serving clients in the U.S., Europe and Asia. We have a top-quartile private equity fund, raise money for companies and funds, and advise governments, families and corporations on mergers and investment opportunities. I can also devote time to Harvard, the US Naval Institute, other charitable causes and, of course, our family.

What did a government degree have to do with all this? To begin, it taught one to think analytically, critically and comparatively. I enjoy trying to combine different intellectual approaches, though my thesis did not do so well enough. Harvard made me aware of international issues and perspectives (helpful in our business!), and it offered a much wider set of perspectives than I perceived as a high school student in West Hartford. And yes, I met my wife at Cambridge thanks to the Knox!

*Ronald L. Taylor, ’66:* I attended Harvard during 1962-1966, graduating with a government (international relations) concentration in 1966. At one time, I thought that I would like to enter the Foreign Service and, if I liked it, make that my career. However, as you may recall, graduation occurred during the beginning of the manpower build up during the Viet Nam War and I was drafted into the U.S. Army shortly after graduation. In a way, I did have a short foreign service career, as a second, then first, lieutenant in the U.S. Army...spending virtually all of 1968 in Viet Nam. This was an interesting (to say the least) life experience but caused my career aspirations to refocus on a career in business management.

Having made that decision, I attended Stanford Graduate School of Management, received an MBA in 1971, and took a job in Chicago as a financial analyst and assistant to the President of Bell and Howell Company. After two years, I left Bell and Howell to start my own company, which I did in 1973, with a partner. That company is now a NYSE company which will report over $1 billion in revenues during this fiscal year.
Last year I retired as CEO of that company but still retain my position on the board of directors and serve as Senior Advisor to the Company.

What I would suggest is that Harvard, and a government concentration at Harvard, serves well as a means to develop the analytical skills, written and oral communication capabilities and historical/philosophical understandings that enable graduates to pursue careers in a wide variety of disciplines and organizations. As such, it proved to be an excellent choice for me.

Francis O. Hunnewell ’60: I have spent 45 years in domestic and international finance, investment banking and private equity. Since the Navy and subsequent graduate school I have lived/worked 4 years in Central America, 15 years in Paris, 6 years in the Middle East/Saudi Arabia as director of a joint venture with Binladen, 10 years in Southeast Asia based out of Hong Kong as Vice Chairman of a merchant bank (still am) and, most recently, until it was sold in 2000, as the CEO of AEGIS, LLC, an international private equity investment management firm focused on real estate with offices in Boston, Mexico, Italy and throughout the Former Soviet Union (CIS). I continue my interest in private equity as President of Hunnewell & Co, established by my father in 1938, and, in the CIS and the Caucasus with some of my former partners at AEGIS, as a principal and managing partner of Eljan Holdings, LLC. In that capacity I spend 4 months a year in our office in Tbilisi, Georgia overseeing our real estate projects. The food is good but the travel is painful.

In the non-profit sector, which is a primary interest, I am currently Chairman of From the Top, a nationally broadcast show on public radio and television celebrating pre-college age classical musicians, a Trustee and Treasurer of the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts, the leading performing arts boarding high school in the US, am Co-Chair of Harvard University’s Arts in Education Advisory Council, a Director Emeritus of the Earthwatch Institute. I am a member of the Brookings Institute Council in Washington, DC and a Director of the Civil War Center in Richmond VA. I was a founder and until recently a member of the Executive Committee and Board of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas as well as a Trustee of the New England Conservatory of Music, Director of St.Paul’s School, Concord, NH and former Chairman of the Board of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. I hold a B.A. and M.B.A. from Harvard University.

In the non-profit sector, which is a primary interest, I am currently Chairman of From the Top, a nationally broadcast show on public radio and television celebrating pre-college age classical musicians, a Trustee and Treasurer of the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts, the leading performing arts boarding high school in the US, am Co-Chair of Harvard University’s Arts in Education Advisory Council, a Director Emeritus of the Earthwatch Institute. I am a member of the Brookings Institute Council in Washington, DC and a Director of the Civil War Center in Richmond VA. I was a founder and until recently a member of the Executive Committee and Board of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas as well as a Trustee of the New England Conservatory of Music, Director of St.Paul’s School, Concord, NH and former Chairman of the Board of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. I hold a B.A. and M.B.A. from Harvard University. My greatest accomplishment was to marry Elizabeth Milton of Richmond VA 44 years ago whom I met in San Francisco while the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) was at Hunter's Point for its post commissioning overhaul. We have two daughters, Susannah and Lee, who are married and live in Paris and a son, Oakes, who is married and lives in Washington. We have 5 grandchildren and a sixth on the way. Elizabeth and I live in Wellesley MA.

Richard Solomon, BA ’56, MBA ’58: Prior to entering Harvard, I had a fascination with current events especially the political process and equally important I had a sense that my aptitude was such that I could achieve a high enough academic standing as a Government
major to be admitted to HBS after graduation, a short term goal. My assumptions proved to be correct. After Business School, I entered a family super market business in which I spent eight years. I spent the next three years at a consumer package goods company as a marketing executive, and the past thirty seven years as an entrepreneur in the contemporary art world. Whether it was as an undergraduate, at B-School, or somewhere along the way, I realized that one can do almost anything with common sense, energy, and self-confidence. Common sense and energy are probably genetic. It seems to me that more than anything else, looking back fifty years, that academic achievement as an undergraduate provided me with the self-confidence that allowed me a great freedom as to the personal and career decisions that I have made over my post graduate lifetime. It took me a decade after graduation to come to this realization. In some respects, I wish it had come earlier, but I am very happy that I did realize it in time to allow me to continue to enjoy a very diverse and exciting life.

Education

Matt Mulder, '05: After graduating in 2005, my wife and I spent six months in rural western Kenya volunteering with the Ugunja Community Resource Center. UCRC is an indigenous non-governmental organization that has established, among other things, a technical school and a health center. After returning to the US, we and a few other friends established Common Hope for Health, a non-profit organization aimed at building the capacity and effectiveness of the health center in Ugunja. We hope to work with other similar grassroots health organizations in the future. The joys and tragedies of the community that we were a part of in Kenya will stay with us always.

Upon returning from Kenya, I began work at SquashBusters, an afterschool enrichment program serving Boston Public School students in Roxbury. I am working as the middle school education coordinator, now entering my second year in the job. It has been a great pleasure to work with a very diverse and enthusiastic group of students. I am reminded daily of just how valuable and unique each student is, and it is a challenge to try to find the right brand of encouragement for each one.

I count it as a great privilege to have spent my years at Harvard examining international development and domestic urban issues on a theoretical level. It has given me a valuable perspective on the larger forces at work behind these two projects about which I care so much.

William F. Austin, '00: I have had the great fortune and privilege to parlay my concentration in Government and undergraduate experiences into a career in the civil rights movement of this era: urban education reform. For over six years I have served as a math teacher, Enrichment Coordinator, and Summer School Director at Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, the highest performing urban middle school in Massachusetts. Co-founded by John King (College ’96) and Evan Rudall (GSE ’97),
Roxbury Prep is one of a growing number of high-performing urban public schools working to eliminate the racial Achievement Gap and ensure that urban students of color have equal access to college.

Working in a high-performing charter school provides recent Harvard graduates with the unique opportunity to fulfill social and personal ambitions. Working at Roxbury Prep or other schools in the Uncommon Schools network ensures that you will be mentored, become an effective classroom teacher, and create change in students’ lives; sadly, hard work in many schools and non-profit organizations often does not result in such successes. It is equally gratifying to know that your efforts are translated in real social goods, while you also have the opportunity to prove your effectiveness and quickly acquire leadership and management exposure and experience. Smaller, meritocratic, and transparent, schools like Roxbury Prep seek and develop personal talents for the benefit of the communities they serve.

For Government concentrators who are interested in having a direct, tangible impact on the challenges of American society, I strongly encourage you to pursue a career in public education. I remember considering the more traditional tracks of public policy, political organizations, and higher education, and coming to this field motivated by the transformative opportunities I had received from my education. If you are grateful for such opportunities and are driven to ensure that your fellow citizens have the same, join the movement to reform urban education.

Joseph Perez, ’97: Within my government concentration at Harvard, I was able to tailor a course of study focusing on American government and history. Whatever space was left, I filled with classical and contemporary literature courses. Indeed, one of the aspects of the government concentration I have come to appreciate most was its relative flexibility with respect to course selections. In my senior year, I worked with Harvard’s Overseas Schools Teaching (HOST) program, which helped me find a teaching position at an independent high school in San Juan, Puerto Rico. What began as an interesting travel adventure blossomed into a vocation, as I ended up teaching in Puerto Rico for five years. I have since moved to Los Angeles to pursue a doctorate in education at UCLA, and I am currently the principal of a newly established independent middle and high school. Between Puerto Rico and becoming principal, I worked on a variety of education-related projects with local non-profit organizations – many of them partnerships between public and private agencies. In the most notable of these projects, a specialized transition program for incarcerated juvenile offenders involving the collaboration of numerous community-based organizations and the Los Angeles Probation Department, my undergraduate training in government proved invaluable. And insofar as a school – any organization for that matter – can be a highly-charged political atmosphere, the perspective provided by my government coursework informs my decision-making on a daily basis.
Government

*Brad Smith, ’05:* After graduating, I went back to my home-state of Tennessee where I worked on the campaign of now United States Senator Bob Corker, traveling with him in the car for over 18 months. After he won, I went to Washington D.C. to work in the White House as the assistant to the Director of Political Affairs. I am currently in California for the summer working as a research assistant for a Stanford professor on a book about the politics of education, and I will be going to Oxford University next year as a Rhodes Scholar to pursue a Masters in Comparative Social Policy. The best advice I received about a “first job” was that my priority should be finding a job where I would work for a senior person who was willing to mentor me on both a professional and personal level. I was fortunate to find that opportunity working with Senator Corker. Based on my experiences, I would strongly encourage others to take a first job where they have a strong mentor figure – whether it be a professor in a graduate program, a partner at an investment bank, or a leader at a non-profit or government organization.

*Zoe K. Epstein ’03:* After graduating, I spent a year in Santiago, Chile working as a paralegal and doing translation in a law firm. I then moved to New York City where I took a job as a legislative aide for a City Councilman from Queens, Eric Gioia. After a few years, I am now Chief of Staff and oversee all aspects of the office. While this job obviously relates very directly to the government concentration, I think that the general skills I learned in terms of research, synthesis, and communication (orally and in writing) are what have best served me.

*Maria Paulina Mogollón, ’03:* Shortly after graduation I began working for a boutique Boston consulting firm. Consulting seemed to be a well-traveled path and through it I thought I could develop valuable strategic thinking skills. After 10 frustrating months I resigned: socially, I missed the diversity to which I was privy during college and professionally, I was not passionate about my work and did not find it stimulating. I chose not to look for another job in the United States: after eight years living abroad (three at Phillips Exeter Academy, four at Harvard and one working), I decided it was time to go home.

I arrived in Colombia bursting with enthusiasm, fervently hoping to secure a job in the public sector. I wanted to serve the country, become acquainted with its economic and political realities and make a difference in it. I decided to work for the National Planning Department (DNP); most of my U.S.-educated peers who had returned to the country were working there and it had a reputation for employing a large number of bright, young and committed individuals.

I was not disappointed: I worked on a small team responsible for building a consensus-driven, strategic plan to increase Colombia’s productivity and competitiveness. I traveled the country helping its numerous regions think about their strengths, weaknesses, and economic future. My work was both challenging and rewarding: for almost three years I
kept 70-hour weeks, bore more responsibility than is usual for my age, and indulged in the fun, close-knit, work-hard, play-hard environment of the National Planning Department.

I recently left the DNP to pursue an MBA at Harvard Business School (HBS). I want to become a well-rounded leader in the public sector and I felt I needed to build the skills I was still missing: finance, accounting, economics, general business administration and a solid understanding of the private sector. I chose HBS because of its robust curriculum, its emphasis on leadership and its proximity to the Kennedy School of Government. I will be a first-year student there in this Fall.

_Amanda Castle, ’97:_ For most of the time since graduation, I worked as a business consultant for the Federal government. I also earned an MBA at the Yale School of Management (SOM), which emphasizes building management and analysis skills for leaders in both the public and private sectors. My work as a consultant included business process improvement as well as performance management. While it was interesting to work with Federal agencies to help them cut costs and become more efficient, I really enjoyed working with clients trying to develop management systems or plans to enforce accountability and look at how closely every day work relates to their mission. The work brought me into contact with leaders at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Defense, and the Justice Department, and I had a real sense of how business is conducted and policy made in those places. However, now I am at home with two really little kids and I'm looking forward to (eventually) sharing what I've learned with them...and moving onto my next gig!

_Andrei Cherny ’97:_ I am one of those people who ended up using my Government degree to work in government. Directly after graduation, I went to work in the Clinton White House as Senior Speechwriter for Vice President Gore. In 2000, I negotiated and wrote the Democratic Party platform. In 2001, my book, _The Next Deal_ (about how changes in the economy have changed government and what that means for the 21st century) was published. I spent some time as consultant advising companies on policy matters then jumped back into politics by working for a year and a half as director of speechwriting and special advisor on policy for the Kerry campaign. In the fall of 2004, I was a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Kennedy School. I am now the founder and editor of _Democracy: A Journal of Ideas_, an Assistant Attorney General in Arizona, a lieutenant in the Navy reserve, and my second book, _The Candy Bombers_ (about the Berlin Airlift and its meaning) is being published in April 2008. My ten years in graduation show either my inability to hold down a job or the number of career paths available to a Gov concentrator. I just don’t recommend one person deciding to try all of them.
Bridger McGaw, ’97: I was interested in public service before entering Harvard and my classes as a Government Concentrator helped shape how I would begin my service and the type of work I would pursue. Professor Steve Rosen’s class “War and Politics” helped develop my focus on national security issues and Professor Roger Porter’s class, “The American Presidency,” introduced me to the amazing world of “advance.” It was probably a 30 second comment, but it led me to delve deeply into this little known profession.

Advance men are the government roadies who manage the behind the scenes activities of public officials from planning summits, speeches, press conferences, and campaign stops. I joined the Clinton campaign as an advance man to find out more first hand. While planning trips for the President and First Lady across the country, I decided to write my senior thesis on the impact these campaign staff have on the political process. I found advance work to be a crucial part of policy advocacy and implementation and continued doing it on campaigns in 2000 and 2004. The thesis has evolved to a screenplay.

My campaign work led to a presidential appointment as a Public Affairs Officer to the Secretary of Defense where I was able to promote efforts to support our men and women in uniform and travel to over a dozen countries. I remember meeting General Wesley Clark in Kosovo and planning a Christmas USO tour to our forces stationed in the Middle East. I continued my public service as a press secretary on Capitol Hill before returning to the Kennedy School to study public policy.

Ten years after leaving Cambridge, I continue to apply my Harvard education through my public service as a homeland security consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton. The public sector needs more talented and motivated personnel and I hope that new concentrators will take advantage of the opportunities at Harvard and beyond to join us in working to improve the effectiveness of governments around the world.

Leah S., ’95: My path from Harvard's Government Department to my present position as a writer-editor at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) included several stops that I could not have anticipated while an undergraduate. After graduating from Harvard, I earned a master's degree in library science and worked as a reference librarian in a large public library near Washington, DC. While there, I became a volunteer book reviewer for various professional and library journals, which led to some freelance writing and book reviewing assignments for several major college and academic publishers. These assignments in turn led to my desire to leave librarianship for publishing with a particular interest in a writing/editing position. Having always wanted to live overseas, I moved to Oxford, UK, for a year and earned a master's in publishing while working part-time at Oxford University Press.

I returned to the United States less than two weeks before September 11, 2001, and took a position as a writer and research analyst in the fundraising office at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Growing up the daughter of an Air Force chaplain, I have
always had a strong sense of duty and felt a responsibility to serve my country. The events of September 11 made a strong impression on me, and I began looking for work in the federal government so I could use my writing experience in service to the United States. I was fortunate to obtain a position at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC, where I've worked as a writer-editor for the past several years. I am grateful to Harvard for making me a better writer (from my first day of Expository Writing freshman year to preparing my senior honors thesis for the Government Department) and a better critical thinker while opening up countless possibilities.

_Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr., ’52:_ When I arrived at Harvard in 1948, I already had a deep interest in politics and government, fueled by the example of my great-uncle Herbert H. Lehman, who had been both a governor of New York and a United States senator as well as the first head of UNRA (U.S. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) which helped Europe get back on its feet after World War II. Every course I took in government at Harvard deepened that interest, and I received excellent guidance from such memorable teachers as William Yandell Elliott, Louis Hartz, Samuel H. Beer and Carl Joachim Friedrich. (I was also lucky enough to have Henry Kissinger occasionally as a section man.)

Already very familiar with the principles of capitalism, my senior honors thesis (my honors tutor was Herbert John Spiro, who would also later become an ambassador) was on the work of the famed Marxist Socialist, and a member of the British Labor Party, Harold Laski. Even though I am a capitalist, the understanding of the principles of socialism gained from that study helped me greatly many years later in my surprisingly warm relationship with the Socialist prime minister of Denmark, Anker Jørgensen, when I was appointed as the U.S. ambassador to Denmark during the Reagan administration.

After Harvard and a stint with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, I joined Loeb, Rhoades, my family’s financial firm on Wall Street, but my interest in politics never waned. At one point in my life, I even considered running for Congress and was encouraged by the Republican Party to run for the United States Senate, but finally chose not to pursue my political interests in an elective office, preferring to lend my support to others whose principles I believed in. Among those was New York’s Governor Nelson Rockefeller, during whose administration I served first as Special Advisor on Environmental Matters for six years, and then another five years as chairman of the Governor’s New York State Council of Environmental Advisors.

My background and political interests were also put to use over the years as a director and member of the executive committee of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. I have also served on Harvard’s Boards of Overseers to Visit the Department of Government and the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Following my term as U.S. ambassador to Denmark, I served as the United States Delegate to the 38th Session of the United Nations General Assembly under the leadership of Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick. I am currently the vice chairman of the
Council of American Ambassadors, based in Washington, DC. I serve on the board of the American Scandinavian Foundation and have one of the largest collections in the world of Danish paintings. An exhibition of some of them, entitled Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century was held in 1994 at the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard.

**Jack of All Trades**

*Justin Erlich, ’03:* After college, I spent the summer interning for Hon. Nancy Pelosi, then Democratic Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, in Washington DC. I then returned to Harvard that fall as a Teaching Fellow for Robert Bates in the Government Department while I studied for the LSATs and applied to law school. The following January, I joined the Kerry for President campaign - initially as a volunteer and then got hired on working in the Finance/Fundraising department. I ended up deferring law school and worked on the Kerry campaign through the election in November. I later worked for the District Attorney's Office of San Francisco before matriculating at NYU School of Law. In my first summer of law school, I interned at a law firm's pro bono department in South Africa. In my second summer, I worked at two law firms in the United States (one in Washington DC and one in San Francisco). I will graduate in the spring of 2008.

*Lee-Sean Huang, ’02-’03:* After I graduated from Harvard in 2003, I took a road trip with my family down the East Coast. Then I headed back home to Arizona to relax and pack for Japan, where I would live for 3 years in a provincial city in southern Japan and work as an Assistant Language Teacher on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. The program is sponsored by the Japanese government and seeks to foster linguistic and cultural exchange. I taught English conversation classes to elementary and junior high school children and adults. I also organized international exchange events and did some translation and freelance writing for JapanVisitor.com on the side. Outside of work, I played keyboard in a few local bands, including a Japanese girl-rock group and a salsa band that performed at a large outdoor summer festival to thousands of people. I also continued to work on writing and performing my own music.

*Matt Daggett, ’02:* As a government major, I took an eclectic course load covering everything from the American Presidency to Genetics (yes, this was really one of my electives). I enjoyed most the few classes that focused on the inner workings of international institutions and their attempts at intervention and encouraging economic development. I was excited about the subject, but saw that the work of these institutions left much to be desired. I joined the bandwagon talking about their need for reform, but didn’t really see a way I personally could help.

After graduation, I traveled to Oxford in England on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. I studied for my MBA, rowed for the university second eight in The Boat Race, worked for a social venture fund in Chile, and did appropriate penance for the
parties I missed while at Harvard. Next, I joined the strategy consultancy BCG where I worked for 3.5 years doing projects across a range of industries first in San Francisco and then in London. After a 9-month pro bono case for the INGO Save the Children, I was reminded of my excitement for the field of international development and decided I did now have a skill set that could be used to help reform the sector.

In January 2007, I began work at Dalberg Global Development Advisors advising multinational corporations, INGOs, and international institutions on issues of globalization and sustainable international development. During this first year, my engagements have included: designing a scale-up strategy for a savings-led microfinance program, identifying top private equity fund managers to invest in African social sectors and SMEs, and assessing INGO influence on climate change policy. This new career involves some hard work and won’t ever make me rich, but I am learning a ton and really enjoy working in a sector I feel passionate about.

Steve W. Chung, ’01: Finishing my senior year with a Government degree, I had two disparate job offers – one with Goldman Sachs and the other with the CIA. Although public service and IR were core to my life plans, I chose Wall Street to learn more about finance/trade/economy as I thought these sectors drove more of our international relations today. After 2 years in New York learning all I could about finance, I move to China to join an upstart media company that produced China’s version of Larry King Live as Chief Operating Officer. The idea there was to connect ordinary Chinese viewers with their global world through the stories of famed celebrities that were guests on the show. I had a blast, learned a lot (about failure and success) and managed to land the likes of Nicole Kidman, Yoko Ono, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Madeleine Albright on our show. In that role, my government degree helped me to have a global perspective and maintain sensitivity toward the political angle of media in a Communist country. To keep my government tutors happy (!), I also worked as a part-time lecturer at the China Foreign Affairs University, teaching current events to the English & International Studies students there (my gov’t training definitely helped there). After two years in China, I realized that there was much to learn about management and leadership and went to Stanford for my MBA. I now find myself as a venture capitalist at BlueRun Ventures in Silicon Valley – and believe it or not – skills we find in government / politics are very relevant in this industry: networking, building consensus, connecting the dots, effective communications, mediation and leadership. Look at all the cool things you can do with a government degree – finance, media, education, technology!!! True to form, I never miss a chance for a shameless plug – if you are starting the next Facebook.com in your dorm room (or your cooler CS roommate is!), we need to talk! By the way, I haven’t given up on my dreams of entering public service and international relations just yet – so trying my best to chart my own path!

Marissa Shorenstein, ’01: I joined the New York Jets in 2004 as Senior Manager for Strategic Planning. In my capacity at the Jets, I served as the spokesperson for the controversial stadium development project on Manhattan’s West Side. In addition to my
responsible for all non-sports related issues, I am currently head of
fan relations.

Prior to joining the Jets, I was a Senior Associate at SSK, a national strategic
communications firm based in New York. My primary clients were the New York Jets
and Blue Cross Blue Shield, the company’s largest account.

I joined SSK after serving as Press Secretary to Carl McCall’s campaign for Governor of
New York. I was the youngest gubernatorial press secretary in New York State history.

Previously, I was one of five members of the National Press Advance staff for the Gore
Presidential campaign where I planned press events and coordinated logistics for the
traveling press corps. I have worked in television production at WNBC-TV and Court TV
where I helped produce a six part documentary series called the *Greatest Trials of All
Time*. I have also worked as a Special Events Coordinator in the New York City Mayor’s
Office and on the 1992 and 1996 Clinton campaigns.

I also served as New York Director of Communications for *Cover the Uninsured Week*, a
public awareness campaign funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and
cosponsored by dozens of non-profit, labor and business organizations around the country
to highlight and create awareness about the 41 million Americans who are without health
insurance.

I am currently a candidate for juris doctor at Fordham Law School’s Evening Division. I
retired from a career as a professional ballerina in 1998.

*Christiana Briggs, ’99:* As a government concentrator, I focused my studies on national
security and defense policy. I was fortunate as an undergrad to do research work for a
Harvard professor, which led to co-authoring a chapter in *Keeping the Edge: Managing
master’s degree program before accepting a great opportunity to work on the National
Security Council (NSC) staff for the last six months of the Clinton Administration. I then
became a consultant, working in the counter-terrorism and weapons of mass destruction
fields, and post-911, in the homeland security arena as well. I now have my own
consulting company and continue to work in the homeland security and defense fields in
Washington D.C.

*Eric Reitman, ’99:* "Government" was for me an academic Panamanian flag that provided
entree into just about every port at Harvard, including places like the Law School, the
Business School, the Graduate government department, the Kennedy school, and a
number of economics and history courses that I was allowed to use for departmental
credit. It’s not that I did not enjoy government courses—indeed they provided me with
an invaluable infrastructure-level understanding of how the world works—but what I
really enjoyed was being able to study government alongside chemistry, biology, physics,
philosophy, economics, computer science, Swahili and anything else that sounded new and interested each semester. As a big believer in the true liberal arts experience, I was not interested in "concentrating" when I was at Harvard, and government provided the perfect infrastructure for a true academic exploration.

Since graduating I have worked in aerospace, dot.coms, management consulting, and the capital markets; in half a dozen countries on three continents, and for two global-brand corporations. I have worked as a C-level officer in two public-listed companies, taken a law degree (graduating top 10% from a top 10 school), published legal papers on human rights and economics; and never found my education to be anything less than a spectacular preparation for the intellectual challenges I have faced.

Depth of study has its place, and I have nothing against providing an opportunity for individuals with specific interests to focus more or less exclusively on them. That said, I believe that the best thing one can take from a Harvard education is exposure to as many disciplines as possible. The government department is a great institution in its own right, but reaches its fullest value as a base for this kind of generalized study.

Sam Spencer, '96: After graduating from Harvard in government in 1996, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do, but I knew I wasn’t ready to work in a cubicle. I was lucky enough to get a job on President Bill Clinton’s re-election campaign doing advance work – traveling around the country organizing the motorcades for campaign stops. I thought this would be an exciting diversion while I figured a real job to get, but it actually turned into a rewarding four years on the White House staff. First I had an entry level job in the White House in the Office of Presidential Personnel, the office that oversees the President’s political appointments in the government, and eventually worked my way up to being in charge of about one third of the appointments in the federal government. I then worked as a Special Assistant to Vice President Gore and among other responsibilities, worked on his pre-election transition team during the 2000 election.

While practical politics is not something that can be learned in entirety from a book, my undergraduate studies in American government were extremely useful during my time in Washington. Not only did my studies improve my writing and critical thinking abilities, but they also gave me a wider appreciation for our system of government which I was observing.

I have since gone to Harvard Business School and now live in my home state of Maine where I own and run a real estate development company which redevelops old mills and manufacturing plants into new commercial and residential uses. Since 2004, I have also represented Maine on the Democratic National Committee.

William Pike '95: My Government concentration has helped me in every job and personal endeavor I’ve been involved with, even when the tie was not obvious. After
Harvard I moved to D.C., where I worked for my congressman over the summer and then spent some time in a senator's office as a legislative correspondent. However, I learned quickly that I did not like Washington life at all. After getting married my wife and I moved to Pierre, South Dakota, where I became a fiscal analyst for the SD Legislative Research Council.

I worked there for four years, until deciding to pursue a Master of Divinity degree, a decision that was partly professional, but largely personal. We moved to North Carolina where I began studies at Duke Divinity School. When people asked, "What does a Government degree have to do with the church?" I would answer, "Everything!" Political theory and history are vital to understanding the work of denominational bodies, local church life, and the place of religion in America and in the world.

After completing my M.Div., I worked at Duke Divinity School for two more years, helping run a program on theology and medicine. Finally, we moved to Indiana, where I am now Assistant Director of Stewardship and Corporate and Foundation Relations at DePauw University. Working at Duke had piqued my interest in university operations, and DePauw (and development) was a good fit. I still volunteer for political campaigns on a regular basis and have written several political articles, so I am certainly politically active. Plus, the knowledge I gained as a Government concentrator remains as pertinent in a university setting as it did on Capito Hill.

David Yarkin, '95: In the 12 years since I graduated from Harvard, I have had jobs both in politics and government and now in the private sector working with governments. My career path has followed a number of twists and turns, but it definitely got its start thanks to Harvard.

As graduation loomed in 1995, I got hooked up with the Clinton/Gore campaign through the father of a friend of mine at Harvard who was an active fundraiser in New Jersey. I brought my books to New Jersey to help work on the campaign’s first fundraiser, studying for finals at night. The event exceeded everyone’s expectations and I was hired on the staff as a fundraiser in Philadelphia.

After the campaign, Ed Rendell, the Mayor of Philadelphia who had been very active in the Clinton campaign, offered me a job as his press secretary in City Hall. It remains the most enjoyable job I have ever had. I highly recommend a career in municipal government and politics to any graduate. Unlike jobs at the state or federal level, you are so close to your constituents so that you develop a very visceral feel for the impact of what you are doing.

When the Mayor was asked by President Clinton to chair the Democratic National Committee for the 2000 election, I moved to Washington to run his office at the DNC. We all know how the election turned out. In early 2001, the Mayor put together a small (e.g., 2 paid staff) team to begin the process of running for Governor of Pennsylvania.
In 2003, the Governor appointed me to be the Deputy Secretary for Procurement in the Pennsylvania Department of General Services, running much of the state’s business operations, including a $4 billion procurement operation, a 17,000 vehicle fleet, 17 warehouses and 27 print shops. Facing a $2 billion budget deficit, the Governor wanted to run the government like a business and to drive out as much of the administrative costs of government. We had fairly dramatic success, including $180 million of annual savings in procurement alone by employing a private sector purchasing practice called strategic sourcing.

I left the Commonwealth in June 2005 to launch Government Sourcing Solutions which has the twin goals of helping states save money through strategic sourcing and advising industry leading corporations on how to sell into the state government market. I also write a column called “Sourcing in the States” for the public procurement trade journal.

I would be happy to talk to any current students or recent alums about careers in politics and government. Feel free to email me at dyarkin@govsourcing.com.

Tim McCormack, ’91-’92: Comparative Government. I had no idea what that meant before Peter Hall’s class my Freshman year. I had no idea, when I graduated, that it would be anything other than an intellectually interesting set of classes I took in college (I was Navy ROTC, on my way to flight school). As it happens, I learned things I didn't know I was learning -- e.g. how to analyze non-quantitative data sets. After the Navy, I found myself working as a computer programmer and data analyst, and then went on to law school, which led to work as a staffer in the Senate and now as an anti-fraud lawyer. In each of those jobs, I have found it immeasurably useful to be able to look at situations, compare and contrast, find similarities and differences, but also look at issues and facts at higher level, at the level of policy. Both as a programmer and as a lawyer, I have found it very useful to be able to integrate analysis of the details of a situation with an appreciation for the bigger picture of what is going on, and what the objective is. For that, I thank Jorge Dominguez, Betty Ann Donnelly and the rest of the Comparative Government section of the Government Department.

Julie H., ’91: I chose Government as my concentration in my freshman year and soon thereafter decided not to spend any of my out-of-class time on Gov-like activities. Instead, I managed varsity sports teams. I took the LSAT my senior year, but I didn’t go to law school straightaway. I found immediate employment with the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Hockey and later moved on to stadium operations with a minor league baseball team, player development with a Major League Baseball team, and management of a National Basketball Association player. While my sports career involved a lot of politics, it was far removed from Government. I eventually came back around to finish law school, intern and clerk with various federal agencies, and join the military. I’m now an Air Force major and judge advocate and thus working for the United States’ biggest employer (the federal government) in its biggest agency (the
Department of Defense). I’ve had assignments in Washington state, Korea, England, D.C., and Louisiana. I’ve performed duties in Alabama, Virginia, Rhode Island, Illinois, Japan, Hawaii, South Africa, Mozambique, Uganda, Georgia (the country), Italy, Germany, North Carolina, New York, and Alaska. I can’t pinpoint times, places, and situations in which I’ve used my Government background, but I can say that, in most every time and place, my Government background has helped me to better analyze and understand the situation and its context. It has helped me to be a better advocate for the United States and a better officer in the United States Air Force.

Leslie A. Cornfeld, BS ’81; JD ’85: After graduation, I went to Washington DC to work for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan as his Special Assistant. I then went to Harvard Law School, after that I clerked for a federal judge in the Southern District of New York, went to the litigation of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison (took a leave of absence to work on the Dukakis Presidential Campaign), left Paul Weiss to serve as Deputy Chief of the Commission to Investigation Police Corruption in New York City (the Mollen Commission, modeled after the Knapp Commission 20 years prior); following that I stayed in law enforcement and went to the United States Attorney's Office where I tried criminal cases for many years, specializing in public corruption and criminal civil rights; most recently I moved to City government where I now serve as Director of the Mayor's Task Force on Child Welfare and Safety, investigating how city agencies can better respond to the issues of child welfare, including abuse and neglect. I have published several articles on police corruption and city government, and have had several television appearances speaking on these issues.

David B. Weinberg, ’74: Following graduation, I attended Georgetown University Law Center. Coincidentally, several cases involving the constitutionality of various provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 had worked their way up to the Supreme Court. Having written my undergraduate honors thesis on election campaign finance, I was recruited by one of the amicii to review a portion of their submission to the Supreme Court. I also worked part-time on the staff of the Federal Election Commission, where I helped to write administrative decisions and regulations, and to prosecute alleged violations of the campaign finance laws.

After graduation from Georgetown, I returned to Chicago to clerk for Bill Clark, a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, who had served in Illinois government in a variety of positions, as had his father and grandfather. The practice of Illinois government is robust, bordering on ribald. Justice Clark’s insights into pending cases, particularly those involving the practice of government, were illuminating. He also later appointed me to the Illinois Supreme Court committee responsible for drafting a code of ethics for Illinois lawyers.

I practiced law for the next 17 years. In my legal practice I often dealt with securities, tax, and other regulatory officials in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Canada and other jurisdictions. This, together with the fall of the Berlin Wall,
reawakened my interest in international relations, which originally had been inspired by Stanley Hoffman and Robert Bowie. I recently joined the Council on Foreign Relations as a national member and the Center for Strategic and International Studies as a member of their International Councillors.

I currently manage money. In my civic life, I serve as vice-chair of the board of Northwestern University and chair the committee overseeing the university’s growing medical research enterprise. I previously chaired the Board of Trustees of the Ravinia Festival Association, which serves as the summer home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and through 100 symphonic and other concerts, hosts over 600,000 guests each summer, as well as providing music education to economically disadvantaged students.

I also serve as Chairman of the Education Committee of The Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago, a group of 75 Chicago-based CEOs. We are working to offer educational opportunity to children in Chicago’s most economically disadvantaged communities through funding the start-up of charter schools. Chicago’s charter schools are independent public schools open to any student in the city, with selection not by competitive examination but by lottery. These schools serve 21,000 students with another 10,000 on waiting lists. My involvement in education has brought me into contact with our state’s budget crisis, which someday will make an appalling case study but a great Farrelly Brothers screenplay.


Ledger D. Free, ’48: Harvard was the real beginning of my learning to think, analyze and explore. Gov 5 B from Prof McIlwain was an example of looking at both sides of issues and not merely reading texts. Professor Demos “Plato & Aristotle” was another important course, as was Professor Roscoe Pound’s “History & System of the Common Law”. I went to law school as the best graduate education for law, business, government service, or teaching; then a brief stint in business school for accounting and finance. My career was varied: law clerk on an appellate court, private practice in a firm, instructor in a night law school, corporate legal department, bank executive, financial executive, CEO of a small company which became an international firm; retirement to board work, consulting, gratis consulting for not for profits, and during my career much community and not-for-profit service. Harvard and my work particularly in political theory and philosophy were basic to my later education and the analysis and thinking required in my career.
Law

Joel Norwood, '04: This May (2007), I graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Starting in September, I will be working at Robinson & Cole LLP, a law firm in Hartford, Connecticut. At least initially, I will probably focus on land use and zoning, environmental law, and real estate development. During law school, I worked for Magistrate Judge Kenneth Neiman, the Connecticut Attorney General's Office, the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative, and the Center for Children's Advocacy. Studying government is very helpful for being a law student or lawyer because politics explain the purpose and format of most laws and political science debates require similar reasoning to legal argument. Although like many people, despite going to law school almost as a default, I have had a wonderful time.

Erin Ashwell, '02: Following graduation, I spent my summer knocking on doors on Capitol Hill and sleeping on friends' couches before finally landing a job as a staff assistant for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. I worked for Senator Clinton for about a year in Washington, DC, carrying out administrative tasks and working on economic development in Upstate New York.

I then headed to law school, first to the University of Virginia and then transferring to Harvard Law School. During law school, I worked served as a legal fellow for Governor Mark Warner of Virginia. I also worked at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton as a summer associate in Washington, DC and Hong Kong, S.A.R. China. The most fun and surprising part of my time at Harvard Law was the opportunity to get involved with the Government Department again. I was a t.f. for sophomore tutorial for three semesters, heading back to Eliot House.

I finished law school last year and am now an attorney for the United States Department of Justice.

Bryn Lovejoy-Grinnell, '02: After leaving Harvard I worked for three years as a domestic violence and rape counselor at an Ithaca NY nonprofit. While I was there I enjoyed a great degree of independence as well as productive collaboration with colleagues, and I worked to apply social science research on trauma and interpersonal violence to our work as counselors. When I decided that law would be a more satisfying niche from which to foster social change, I started law school at Cornell in 2005. My two summer legal clerkships have been with the US Attorney's Office in the Northern District of NY and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. I hope to start my legal career as a prosecutor somewhere in New York State in the Fall of 2008.

Frances Chang, '01: After graduating from Harvard, I pursued my international interests first by working as assistant editor of The National Interest, a foreign policy magazine based in Washington, DC. I then joined the Peace Corps, teaching English to college
students in northwestern China. I graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2007, where I was a member of the Global Law Scholars program. I will be starting work this fall at the Department of Justice, where I will be working in the Office of International Affairs of the Criminal Division. I am very much looking forward to integrating my legal education with my international interests in my day-to-day work.

Paul Gutman, ’00: Perhaps unsurprisingly to most, I am a lawyer. However, it is probably surprising to some that I am a lawyer in the music business, representing artists and independent record labels in their contractual dealings in their everyday lives, from record deals to hiring managers, licensing songs to going their separate ways. My concentration in Government was incredibly helpful as I made my way through law school, preparing me to read carefully, think critically, write coherently, and to think about the purposes behind the laws that I studied. But just as importantly, the Government course requirements allowed me a tremendous amount of flexibility, so that I was able to study music and the arts while an undergraduate and to leverage those learnings into a summer internship with a record label after my junior year at Harvard, a assistant artist management job in the music industry right out of college, and from there to a summer internship with a music law firm after my first year of law school, who several years later called me and asked me to join as a full-time associate. I easily and gladly trace my path to my dream job before the age of 30 to my choice as a first-year to concentrate in Government.

Rebecca O., ’01: After graduating from Harvard with an A.B. in Government in 2001, I embarked on a common but enjoyable career path for government concentrators – I headed for law school. I spent three wonderful years at Boalt Hall School of Law (at the University of California at Berkeley) where I served as a notes and comments editor for the California Law Review. Upon my graduation from law school in 2004 I returned to Boston and began working for Ropes & Gray, a Boston-based national law firm. My husband wished to attend Columbia Business School and at my request the firm allowed me to switch to the New York office. I now work at the Ropes & Gray offices in midtown, where my assignments include hedge fund formation and private equity fund analyses. My husband and I are expecting our first baby, and I am looking forward to a six-month maternity leave, after which I plan to return to work at Ropes & Gray. The critical thinking and writing skills I developed as an undergraduate in the government department have served me well in my legal career thus far.

Lexer Quamie, ’00: Upon graduating I received Lowe career exploration fellowship to study reproductive rights and women’s health care issues in Accra, Ghana. I then worked for two years as a paralegal with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. I attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School. While there, I interned at a labor law firm and the Welfare Law Center. I participated on the National Moot Court team and was a Production Editor for the Journal of Constitutional Law. After graduating, I
clerked for in the Eastern District of Virginia, and am currently a second-year associate practicing Labor and Employment law at a D.C. law firm.

*Derek D. Smith, '00.* After Harvard, I attended Oxford University on a Keasbey Scholarship and earned a D.Phil. in International Relations. Yale Law School was next, after which I clerked for Judge Randolph on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This fall I will start as an associate at the Washington, DC office of Latham & Watkins.

*Adam S. Hickey '99:* I'm an Assistant United States Attorney (federal prosecutor) in New York City. After college, I went to law school, clerked for two judges, and worked for a law firm for two years before joining the United States Attorney's Office earlier this year.

*Nicola McKinney, '99:* I took a year out after graduation to pursue a sporting ambition, and then went to London School of Economics in UK and obtained a masters in International History/International Relations, which I completed in 2001. I then enrolled in an English law degree course for graduates (so I was able to complete it in 2 years instead of 3), which I finished in 2003. Following this I completed the professional schooling in England required to be a Barrister (2003-2004), worked as a paralegal for a short time, and undertook my pupillage (similar to US articles); I am now a practising Barrister in England (and also in The Bahamas), and spend my days in court in a wig and gown!

*Rebecca Hughes Parker, '99:* I definitely underestimated the utility of my experience as a government major. When I graduated, I thought the usefulness of courses like Gov 10 would be quite limited. I was wrong.

After college, I worked in television news for two years, and my thesis, which was about political communication on the internet, turned out to be very useful. I had studied broadcast news and the emergence of the internet, and how it changed political journalism. The lessons I learned were in the back of my head all the time as I produced news packages.

Later, in law school, I found myself repeatedly thinking about courses such as Justice, and drawing on the knowledge I developed at Harvard. Government sections, where lots of intelligent and articulate students raised the level of discourse also prepared me for being called on in class at law school (though I don't think anyone is really prepared for that!)

I am currently having fun as a litigator at a big firm in Manhattan, living in the city with my husband and twin daughters. I have found myself considering the philosophers I
encountered while studying government. Though I do like my job, it does seem raising my girls while working presents a Hobson's choice - something I would really like to help change.

Apart from my career, in my daily life, understanding American politics and history informs my choices, and enhances my experience as an American citizen. The foundation for that knowledge was built in the government department.

Valerie MacMillan Brader, '98: Following my time at Harvard, I worked for Governor Batt of Idaho as the staff assistant for natural resources. I then spent two years on the Rhodes Scholarship, earning two masters degrees: a Masters of Science in Environmental Change and Management, and a Master of Studies in Historical Research. Washington, D.C. was my next stop, where I was an award-winning environmental consultant to various federal agencies by day and a law student at Georgetown by night. After my marriage to Dr. Ted Brader (Ph.D. Gov't 1999), I moved to Michigan and finished law school, emerging with my J.D. magna cum laude. I clerked for U.S. District Court Judge John Feikens until this past February, when I joined the law firm Bodman LLP. Judge Feikens, with the consent of all parties, became my first client, appointing me under the Special Master rule to assist in a complicated case involving the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. I have had several publications in the legal and scientific press on environmental issues.

Nicola (Grunthal) Rosenstock, '97: Since graduating from the College, I have worked for the Special Commissioner of Investigation for New York City Schools, the National Labor Court in Israel, and now as a lawyer in the Investment Funds Group at White & Case LLP. At every interview I have had since graduation, I have been asked about my senior thesis (regarding the ways in which political changes in Cuba have shaped its Jewish community over time). It has been a source of fascination to all my interviewers and a topic about which I can speak enthusiastically and endlessly. My time at Harvard and in the government department in particular, much more so than law school, gave me the ability to read critically and write persuasively. I don’t think that it ultimately matters what you study, as long as you delve into a concentration and learn it well. That will provide you with the skills you need to master any future subject matter.

Aram Schvey '97: As Litigation Counsel at Americans United for Separation of Church and State, I use the skills I learned as an undergraduate on a daily basis. From drafting legal briefs to thinking out litigation strategies, Harvard prepared me well for a legal career. But the best part of a Harvard education is the way in which it prepares one for any number of legal jobs. Before joining Americans United, I taught international human rights at Fordham Law School, worked at an international law firm, and clerked for two federal judges. In each instance, the skills I honed in the Government Department -- critical reading, writing, and thinking -- have been essential.
Rachel Geman ’93: I practice plaintiff-side complex and class action litigation. In English this means I represent people who weren't properly paid at work or who were victims of unfair business practices or discrimination. A number of policy and political issues arise in my professional life, e.g., I taught a course in ‘workplace rights and international business’ that was as much ‘Gov XX’ as it was law. Finally, although I admit I was too intellectually desultory in college to hunker down and write a thesis, I do in fact enjoy research and writing. If you do not -- putting aside One L and Elle Woods and even serious questions about the route to a meaningful life -- you probably will not enjoy the kind of litigation you are most likely to end up doing. Feel free to email me if you want to discuss plaintiff-side or employment law at rgeman@lchb.com.

Jon Ekdahl ’64: Undergraduate education/government concentrator [AB class of 1964] was entry to graduate studies in economics [MS Econ LSE class of 1965] and then law school [JD Harvard class of 1968] leading to a career practicing law [initially in private practice as a partner with a large national law firm [8 years--Sidley Austin], then in-house general counsel for a private sector global professional services firm [25 years--Andersen Worldwide] and then, following a short retirement and currently, as general counsel for a national not for profit trade association of professionals [7 years--American Medical Association].

Allan B. Goldman, ’58: I graduated from Harvard College in 1958 with a B.A. magna cum laude in Government. The next two years I was on Active Duty as an Officer in the U.S. Navy, followed by three years at Harvard Law School (J.D. 1963). After four years as an Associate, I became a partner in the Los Angeles, California lawfirm Wyman, Bautzer, Rothman & Kuchel in November, 1967 and served as Managing Partner or Co-Managing Partner of that lawfirm until mid-1988. In March, 1991, I joined the Los Angeles office of what is now the lawfirm of Katten Muchin Rosenman, and served at various times as Acting Managing Partner, Administrative Partner, and Head of the Litigation Department. Among a number of community activities, I have been the Chairman, President and CEO of several non-profit educational, health and religious organizations, and I have been involved at the highest levels of U.S Presidential and Senatorial campaigns as well as California Gubernatorial campaigns. For many years I have been included in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Law, and Who's Who in the West.

Media

Royd Chung ’01: I knew after a summer internship in DC that I didn't want to work in politics. During my senior year at Harvard, I switched gears and interned at the local NBC station. I had a stress-free senior year as part of an unofficial "No-Thesis Club" and I realized that working in television production was perfect for me.
Right after I graduated, I was able to use my Government degree to land a job on a political talk show on PBS. Once there, I gained a ton of production experience which led to working on non-political themed shows for networks such as TLC, Discovery, and MTV (where I currently work). It’s a long way from sitting in Gov. class, but that experience led me to where I am today!

Charisse Levine, ’92: After receiving my BA in Government at Harvard, I spent a summer interning at CNN. I then attended the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. From there I got my first television journalism job at a CBS affiliate in Columbus, Georgia. I worked as a reporter and producer for the local news. I then moved onto television news producing jobs at other network affiliates in the Southeast. I produced daily newscasts, worked on special projects and covered everything from hurricanes to the World Series. Several years ago my husband and I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where I freelance produce for NBC NewsChannel, the affiliate feed service for the peacock network. I am also a full-time journalism professor at a local university.

Medicine

Chafen Hart, ’03: I started medical school one week after graduating with a degree in government in 2003. I loved the study of government and found a way to integrate medicine into my thesis by studying transnational medical networks in Reynosa, Mexico. I am a firm believer in the physician as a "man of letters" as termed by William Osler and studying government gave me tools to more deeply understand and analyze the ethical frameworks of medicine and their interplay in Western culture. My government background also helped me gain perspective on the active community health programs and their interplay with small village politics in Vellore, India while on a rotation at the Christian Medical College during my fourth year in medical school. I am currently back in Boston at Tufts-New England Medical Center starting my residency in pediatrics while my husband, whom I met in our sophomore government tutorial, pursues an MBA at Harvard Business School. It is possible, if difficult, to concentrate with honors in government and complete premedical requirements. I strongly encourage people with medical school in mind to broaden their educational base and take advantage of the best of Harvard.

Sachin H. Jain, ’02: After graduating Harvard College, I attended Harvard Medical School. At Harvard Medical School, I was active in the student government, serving as president of my class and the student council. I also founded ImproveHealthCare.org, a website and national student group that aimed to educate medical students about health care policy. I co-edited the book, The Soul of a Doctor that was published in 2006 by the Workman Press.

After completing three years of study at Harvard Medical School, I decided to attend Harvard Business School. Having gained perspective on health care policy as an
undergraduate, I wanted to better understand how managers would approach solving health care problems. At Harvard Business School, I began to work with Professor Michael Porter and am writing several case studies on domestic and global health care strategy.

This fall, I return to Harvard Medical School as a fourth year student and will apply to residency programs. My experience as a government concentrator at Harvard honed my analytic thinking and writing skills and has been invaluable in career. I aspire to use my training in government, clinical medicine, and management to improve access to quality health care in the United States and abroad.

Dan Budnitz, ’93: “I am not sure if a career in medicine or public policy is for me”. This was a line from my college application to Harvard in 1989. My undergraduate degree in Government, later combined with a medical degree and a masters of public health, has enabled me to do both.

After completing an internal medicine residency, I joined the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), commonly called the “disease detectives” of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Almost immediately, I had the opportunity to work at the interface of government and medicine through emergency public health responses and long-range health policy development.

In my two years as an EIS Officer, I participated in public health responses to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in 2003, and to several hurricanes. After EIS, I remained at CDC with an appointment with the US Public Health Service and have worked on national health policy issues including monitoring medication safety, drug poisonings in children, and standards for electronic health records. I also have been able to continue to practice medicine ½ day a week.

Throughout my career, the knowledge and the critical thinking and writing skills which I gained from a government concentration have been invaluable. I likely would not have gained these with an undergraduate degree in biology or chemistry, and I certainly did not learn these skills in medical school or medical residency. I would highly recommend a government concentration to anyone who thinks their career path may include public health, health policy, or any aspect of medicine outside of direct patient care.

Mark Onaitis, ’93: After graduation, I moved to Durham, North Carolina to start medical school at Duke University. After graduating in 1997, I completed both general surgery residency (finished June 2004) and cardiothoracic surgery fellowship (finished June 2007) at Duke. I am now Assistant Professor of Surgery at Duke with primary interest in Thoracic Oncology.
Hugh Silk, ’91: While I am not using my government training formally, I feel I am using a lot of the skills that I acquired as a government major. When I left Harvard I taught social literature and then started a youth service program. From there I went to medical school and eventually became a family doctor. I teach medical students and residents now as well as practice full spectrum family medicine. I am in the process of getting an MPH which I believe I will use to work on community health projects to improve the care of children and disadvantaged.

Government helped me to learn to read and synthesize mass amounts of reading. It helped me to do research and to write more succinctly. It helped me learn how to learn in small groups and to defend ideas. These are skills I used in medical school.

However, what I think it did on a more profound level was teach me how to think with a more worldly view and with a critical eye for what is presented to me. The former I use every day as I take care of patients from different places. I have a curiosity for where they come from and for what is out there. How do people live in persecution and thrive and move and become healthy again? The latter, I use as a part of listening to people, digging deeper into their history or into a study about health. Am I being told the truth; is there a truth?

I enjoy saying "government" every time I am in a group of physicians and we have to announce our undergrad majors. Within a sea of "bio", "chem" and "psych" it allows me to stand out. I think that the perspective I bring to health care stands out too.

Military

John S. Kwaak ’05: As a First Lieutenant in the Republic of Korea Air Force, I have found that having in my head the conceptual tools with which I can analyze and comprehend international politics is as indispensable in being a dutiful serviceman as having in my backpack the equipments with which I can survive through combat. The duty of serving one’s country can no longer be fulfilled by loyalty and discipline alone; but requires an awareness of the strategic situation that surrounds an armed conflict. The Korean Peninsula is arguably the most geopolitically complex area of the world in which many of the world’s superpowers—the established as well as the rising—race for dominance. In the midst of this intricate competition, the recent acquisition of nuclear capability by the world’s single most volatile dictatorship has caused an additional increase of international attention onto the tension across the 38th parallel. Whether it be the Hobbesian realism that I learned in Prof. Stephen Rosen’s class during freshman year or the global pluralism taught by Prof. Samuel Huntington in his senior seminar, the knowledge I gained from the government department has equipped me with lenses through which I can examine the strategic landscape surrounding the country where I proudly put on my uniform each morning and report to duty.
Luis Angel Paul Gonzalez, Jr., '01: I was commissioned via the NROTC program in May 2001, and was immediately deployed to USS GONZALEZ (DDG 66) as the First Lieutenant/Deck Division Officer from June 2001 through May 2004. While onboard, I was deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terrorism, serving in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM from September through December 2001 and in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from January through June 2003. In 2004, I transferred to USS LABOON (DDG 58) for service as the AEGIS Fire Control Officer, acting as the Fleet Air Defense Coordinator for the NASSAU Expeditionary Strike Group during their intermediate and advanced pre-deployment training phases. At the close of 2005, I was qualified in every major controlling watchstation – Engineering Officer of the Watch, Officer of the Deck (Underway), and as an AEGIS Tactical Action Officer (TAO). My major collateral duties were Command Legal Officer, Tomahawk (TLAM) Engagement Control Officer, and Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) Boarding Officer.

I reported for duty as Assistant Professor of Naval Science (Navigation and Seamanship) at the University of Minnesota Naval Reserve Officers’ Training Corps in January 2006, where I also serve as the Junior-Class Advisor and Recruiting Officer. I am a native of Brooklyn, New York, attending high school at Phillips Academy (Andover, Massachusetts). I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Government from Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts), and am a candidate for a Master’s in Public Policy from the Hubert H. Humphrey Center at the University of Minnesota.

My awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal, Battle Excellence Award, and Sea Service Deployment Award (second award).