



**Robertson Foundation  
for Government**

## Robertson Report

**Quarter 4 | December 2018**

*Public Service. National Leadership. Global Engagement.*

### New class of fellows



The Robertson Foundation for Government (RFG) is pleased and proud to announce the most recent additions to the network of RFG fellows. Twenty new fellows began in the 2018-19 academic year, and were welcomed at a dinner in their honor in late October. The newest group of fellows marks the 10th class supported by RFG.

### New HQ and social media

The RFG office has moved! The headquarters is now located at 1612 K Street NW, Suite 1202, Washington, DC 20006. Please update your files, and note phone and fax numbers remain the same.

The foundation has also relaunched its social media channels. Follow RFG on Twitter via [@Robertson4Gov](#), and via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/robertson4gov/>.

Fellows - please make sure RFG is following you and that you are on the fellows list at: <https://twitter.com/Robertson4Gov/lists/fellows/members>

Connect via LinkedIn on the public RFG page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/robertson-foundation-for-government/>.

A private RFG Current & Alumni Fellows group is available for membership to fellows at

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## In memoriam: Robert Halligan

The Robertson Foundation for Government acknowledges the passing of former board chair and long-time member of the RFG Board of Directors, The Honorable Robert Halligan, who died on November 11, 2018. Bob brought to bear his significant background in federal service, international development, and government workforce needs, playing a critical role in the creation of RFG through his ardent advocacy for focus on the donors' original mission to support public service leadership development. He was chair of the board from 2012-2015. RFG is grateful for his dedicated efforts to ensure the ongoing legacy of Charles and Marie Robertson to cultivate a growing corps of federal leaders with global perspective.

[Read more about Robert Halligan's impressive career and contributions](#)

## 7 fellows named 2019 finalists for the Presidential Management Fellowships

The PMF Program received 4,045 applications and selected 351 finalists for the Class of 2019. Seven RFG Fellows are among the finalists, who are selected based on eligibility for the program as well as the candidate's application, assessment scores, and federal agencies' reported hiring projections. They include:

Emma Buckhout (Maxwell)  
Simona Griffith (Maryland)  
Isabelle Heilman (GPS)  
Elizabeth Kokemoor (Maxwell)  
Claire McGillem (Fletcher)  
Michael Schwab-Holler (GPS)  
Ariana Scurti (Maryland)

The PMF Class of 2019's finalists represent 56 disciplines, 113 academic institutions, and 12% are veterans. As noted by Kelli Young, director of the John L. and Stephanie G. Palmer Career Center at the Maxwell School: "It is particularly gratifying to see so many current students among this year's finalists, as they can look forward to a placement with the federal government as soon as they receive their degree."

## News from partner Bush School at TAMU

### Announcement of a new center

The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University is pleased to announce the establishment of the [Albritton Center for Grand Strategy \(CGS\)](#). CGS will serve as an intellectual hub for the critical examination of American grand strategy. Specifically, it will support research that takes a fresh look at America's grand strategic choices; foster dialogue between scholars and practitioners; and help train a new generation of public servants who will be grand strategic innovators.



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On November 28, 2018, the [center's kick-off event](#) featured a talk by former dean of the Fletcher School, Admiral James Stavridis.

### Passing of George H.W. Bush

We would also like to acknowledge the passing of President George H.W. Bush on November 30, 2018. We are grateful for his and Barbara Bush's role in our partnership with the Bush School. For more on President Bush's work and legacy in the field of public service, please see the wonderful tribute page TAMU put together, ["Remembering George H.W. Bush"](#).

## Promoting government service



Among its areas of emphasis, RFG supports and partners with organizations to foster, highlight and recognize public service in the federal government. The foundation was a sponsor of the 2018 Sammies -- [Samuel J. Hayman Service to America Medals](#) -- that celebrate outstanding achievements and important contributions of America's dedicated federal workforce (photo above).

In addition, RFG funded GovLoop to produce and promote an updated guide and microsite about the Presidential Management Fellowships (PMF) in order to inform potential candidates about new PMF opportunities.

The foundation also provided a grant to The Volker Alliance for the new G2U initiative to strengthen ties between the U.S government and universities.

[Read more about the G2U program](#)

## Alumni Corner

Dear RFG Alumni,

Want to make a difference to the whole body of RFG alumni? Run for the Alumni Council! Nominations for yourself or recommendations for someone else are now being accepted - please email [alumni@rfa.org](mailto:alumni@rfa.org) with your nomination **by January 10**.

We are also excited to announce the outcomes of the RFG alumni planning workshop that took place in September. There are three main updates:

1. We have rebranded ourselves as the Alumni Council to better reflect our organizational structure.
2. To promote participation from all RFG schools and allow for more flexible opportunities to take on new roles, instead of running for specific positions we are encouraging alumni to run as the candidate from each school, with individual council roles to be decided upon arrival. Look out for more details to come soon!
3. We have a revised constitution put together by the current council and alumni planning workshop participants, which is available to all alumni for comments and feedback until January 8. Please email [alumni@rfg.org](mailto:alumni@rfg.org) for a copy. The newly elected Alumni Council will vote on the final version of the constitution.

Sincerely,  
Your RFG Alumni Council

Jessica Gottesman, President  
Edith Yu, Vice President  
Samantha Stein, Internships and Careers Chair  
Jill Maloney, Social Chair  
Patricia Weng, Treasurer and Professional Development Chair  
Melia Ungson, Secretary

## Fellows in the news

Anubhav (Andy) Gupta (Fletcher, Class of 2013) recently published a [blog post on Sri Lanka's political crisis](#) for the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York, where he is a Senior Program Officer.

We invite current fellows and alumni to submit links to their published writings, mentions of their work in the media, promotions and more for inclusion on our website and our quarterly newsletter. Please [email Communications Manager Lauren Hertel](#) with links.

## Opportunities

### **Call for Applications: Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship**

The Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship Program invites recent college and graduate school alumni to apply for full-time, six-to-nine month fellowships in Washington, DC. Outstanding individuals will be selected to work with nonprofit, public-interest organizations addressing peace and security issues. Deadline for application materials is January 7. [Learn more](#)

### **Call for Nominations: 2019 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals**

Each year, the Partnership for Public Service recognizes more than two dozen individuals and teams who have made significant contributions to the health, safety and prosperity of

and teams who have made significant contributions to the health, safety, and prosperity of the American people. RFG is a proud sponsor of the Sammies. Nominations are due January 18.

[Learn more](#)

### **Call for Nominations: 70th Arthur S. Flemming Awards**

Established in 1948, the Flemming Awards honor outstanding federal employees. Recognized by the president of the United States, agency heads, and the private sector, the winners are selected from all areas of the federal service. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2019.

[Learn more](#)

### **Call for Applications: Urban Leaders Fellowship**

The Urban Leaders Fellowship is a paid summer fellowship that recruits the best and brightest for an intensive, seven-week experience in nine premier cities: Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Indianapolis, Kansas City, MO, Nashville, New Orleans, Oakland, and Washington D.C. During the fellowship, fellows spend half of their time working on a critical policy project with a partner elected official, helping to enact a vision for improving their cities. The next deadline to apply is February 7, 2019.

[Learn more](#)

### **Call for Submissions: Grand Challenges in Public Administration**

The National Academy of Public Administration has launched a new program—Grand Challenges in Public Administration—to identify and address the biggest challenges that government at all levels will face through the 2020s. They seek input from everyone—including practitioners, academics, students, interest groups, and the general public—on what government must do over the next decade and how it should do it.

[Learn more](#)

## **Resources**

### **Government for the Future: Reflection and Vision for Tomorrow's Leaders**

In the IBM Center for The Business of Government's latest book, they have brought together an array of viewpoints about the public sector in 2040, through a set of collaborative brainstorming sessions and a crowdsourcing of ideas about future scenarios. This vision of tomorrow's government is framed through essays from experts that lay out a roadmap for how to maximize benefits and minimize risks, with potential innovations ranging from the workplace of the future to the advancement of space exploration.

[Read more](#)

### **Civil service is stuck in the mid-20th century**

This op-ed by Max Stier (Partnership for Public Service) and Thomas W. Ross (Volcker Alliance President) calls for a major overhaul of the federal government's civil service system, which is out of sync with the changing nature of work, expanded responsibilities of government and increasing need for knowledge-based skills.

[Read more](#)

### **What Managers Should Do With 2018 Employee Viewpoint Survey Data**

Federal agencies recently received their 2018 employee viewpoint survey results. In a recent Government Executive article, Danny Werfel, partner at Boston Consulting Group, and Max Stier, President and CEO, Partnership for Public Service, explore the significance of these



results and the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government® rankings, which their two organizations produce.

[Read more](#)

### **Case Studies in Congressional Oversight**

Over the last year, the Partnership for Public Service has been working to create the resources, tools and communities in Congress and the executive branch to promote the regular, routine oversight that ensures that our government programs effectively and efficiently provide services to the American people. As part of this work, the Partnership has developed a series of case studies on outstanding examples of oversight to serve as a template for staff on the Hill and in agencies.

[Read more](#)

### **Non-confidential CRS reports are now public**

Congressional Research Service reports that are not confidential are now available online to the public. The concise, well-researched and non-partisan reports cover a broad range of topics and policy issues.

[Read more](#)

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