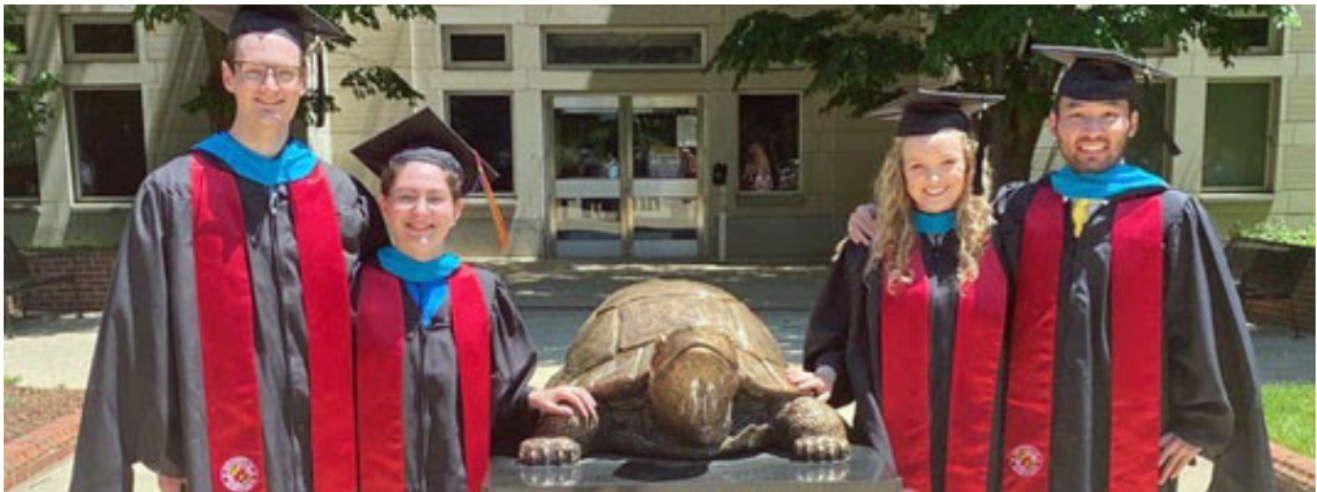




the ROBERTSON REPORT

Public Service. National Leadership. Global Engagement.

Quarter 2 • June 2021



Congratulations, Class of '21!

The RFG board members, advisors and staff extend a huge and hearty congratulations to the Class of 2021 Robertson Fellow graduates! They persevered through two academic years impacted by the pandemic, happily with ultimate in-person graduation opportunities. Shown above are the RFG Fellows at University of Maryland School of Public Policy, from left to right: Kevin Laiveling, Nicole Franiok, Holly Gregory and Justin Horoiwa.

See below for a sample of the range of government career opportunities the fellows are embarking on:

- [Caitlyn Bess](#) (Bush) - Technical Staff, Center for Global Security and Cooperation, Sandia National Laboratories
- [Josie Glenn](#) (Maxwell) - Program Assistant, Latin America and Caribbean Division, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development
- [Anna Hirt](#) (Maxwell) - Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Agency for International Development
- [Lily Folkerts](#) (UCSD GPS) - Analyst, Professional Development Program, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Government Accountability Office

- [Nicole Franiok](#) (UMD SPP) - Intelligence Analyst, Office of Intelligence & Analysis, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- [Laura Leddy](#) (Bush) - Researcher, Energy Security and Resilience, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- [Jessica Parks](#) (Bush) - Emergency Management Specialist, Workforce Management Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- [Topher Taylor](#) (UCSD GPS) - Passport Adjudication Specialist, San Diego Passport Agency, U.S. Department of State
- [Charlotte Volpe](#) (Maxwell) - Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Visit our [Fellow Directory](#) to learn more about our current fellows, recent graduates, and other alumni of the RFG Fellowship.

3 Fellows awarded Rosenthal Fellowships

The Rosenthal Fellowship is a prestigious program that offers our country's most outstanding and civic-minded graduate students in international affairs the opportunity to spend a summer working to solve some of our biggest national and global challenges.

This year [Ricky Cieri](#) (Maxwell), [Katherine Maxwell](#) (Maxwell), and [Katherine Seevers](#) (Maryland) received the fellowship.

The Rosenthal Fellowship is a program of the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that strives for a more effective government for the American people.

[Learn more](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Andrew Reighart





In observance of Pride Month, we talked to [Andrew Reighart](#) (UMD SPP, '15) about why it is important to observe Pride Month and what the general climate is at EPA, where he is a policy analyst.

[Read more](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Grace Choi





In observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, in May RFG and our partner schools honored Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and their contributions to the United States. Learn more about [Grace Choi](#) (Fletcher, '12) and her AAPI background, accomplishments and impact.

[Read more](#)

RFG also published a statement condemning the rising violence and discrimination against AAPI communities and reaffirming our commitment to DEI.

[Read more](#)

Fellow interviewed expert on biases women in leadership roles experience in the diplomatic sector

[Amb. Kathleen Doherty](#), former U.S. Ambassador and current Chief Strategy and Retreats Officer at Sunnylands, was recently interviewed by [Katherine Maxwell](#) (Maxwell, '22) for the Sunnylands 3 by 3 series.

They discussed biases women in leadership roles experience in the diplomatic sector, and how women often adjust to accommodate those situations.

[Read more](#)

6/30: "Democracy in crisis?" Roundtable



June 30, 2021

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Eastern

Democratic governance is challenged on many fronts around the world to the point that many ask if we are witnessing a global crisis in how nations are governed. Underlying a shift toward authoritarian rule have been the social stresses from population growth, urbanization, climate change, and rising health threats. These have contributed to failures of governance and popular disillusion about the promises of democratic rule. Disinformation and misinformation are further breeding distrust of institutions, civil society and traditional media.

We invite you to join us for a roundtable discussion, "Democracy in Crisis?" that will feature three leading experts with regional expertise as well as global perspectives:

- [Heather Conley](#), Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs
- [Miriam Kornblith](#), Senior Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

- [Amb. Derek Mitchell](#), President, National Democratic Institute (NDI), and former Ambassador to Myanmar

This is a joint event by RFG and the Rosenthal Fellowship of the Partnership for Public Service.

[Register](#)

Partner News



Meet the 2021 Service to America Medal finalists

Read their stories, vote for your favorite for the People's Choice award through July 2, and watch the virtual event with Axios and Tony Award nominee Adrienne Warren.

[Learn more](#)



7/9: PPIA Public Service Expo

July 9, 2021
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern

The EXPO brings together representatives of some of the nation's top graduate programs in public policy and international affairs and employers seeking highly qualified individuals who are committed to public service under one roof. Undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals alike can benefit from the expertise and guidance they can access through this event.

[Register](#)

APsia Diversity Workshops

From May 17-21, APSIA hosted the fifth annual Diversity Forum Workshop for Advisors. Created in 2017, the Diversity Forum seeks to inspire students and young professionals – and those who counsel them – to seek out careers in international affairs. The series particularly focuses on students who are traditionally underrepresented in the field. RFG Fellow Amy Donhauser, Senior Program Manager at We Care Solar, served on one of the panels, and RFG co-sponsored the event.

[Learn more](#)

Foundation News

RFG announces governance transitions

RFG is pleased to announce its new slate of members and officers for the Board of Directors. John Palmer and Olivia Robertson-Moe are new board members serving three-year terms. Julia Robertson is the new Chair and Ms. Robertson-Moe, the new Secretary. Newly-announced RFG President, Geoff Robertson will also continue on as Treasurer.

[Read more](#)





IN THE ARENA

A MEMOIR OF LOVE, WAR, AND POLITICS

CHUCK ROBB FOREWORD BY
BILL CLINTON

New book - In the Arena: A Memoir of Love, War, and Politics

RFG is pleased and proud to announce a new book by Advisory Board member Charles "Chuck" Robb, titled *In the Arena: A Memoir of Love, War, and Politics*. Chuck is a former Virginia governor and U.S. senator. As described by publisher University of Virginia Press: "from the frontlines of Vietnam to a White House wedding to Capitol Hill comes a memoir of love, war, and politics." Join us in congratulating Chuck and read

more about the book and its accolades.

[Learn more](#)

Add to our DEI Resources list

As part of our ongoing commitment to DEI for public service professionals, we have created a [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Groups & Resources Google Doc](#), and we are asking for your help in finding relevant groups, organizations, news sources, blogs, podcasts, and more.

In addition, we have a new DEI resources list on Twitter that you can [follow](#).

[Add a resource](#)

Alumni Corner

DEI Council update

The RFG Fellows' DEI Council continues to make great strides, including releasing a Fellows' DEI Audit (survey) this month to provide a baseline from which to inform their efforts. The council is also looking into creating a Fellows' DEI newsletter and affinity spaces and communications outlets that can provide current RFG Fellows and alumni with DEI-specific resources from federal government agencies.

If you have any questions, want to become involved, or would like to provide feedback to the RFG Fellows' DEI Council, please email them at RFGDEICouncil@gmail.com.

Resources

[Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce](#)

[New Profiles in Public Service podcast](#)

[How federal agencies can reopen after the pandemic in inclusive and equitable way](#)

[Prioritizing Federal Personnel: Policy Priorities for the Executive and Legislature](#)

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