

FPA Voices

Robyn Gibbard

Lessons from a Cuban hospital

Graduate Advice

for Future Carleton Students

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on Global Issues

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Why Kazakhstan is nothing like *Borat*



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Welcome to FPA Voices

Message from our Dean



As we get to know our students at FPA, we try to impart a sense of responsibility—not only for their own future, but for the future of their communities as well.

So what struck me about the profiles in this special convocation issue is the sense that our students have accepted that responsibility, and that the future will be stewarded by a group of thoughtful, intelligent, and caring graduates.

They will be working as policy analysts, journalists, and social workers—to name a few—while some will continue their studies. And they will be sharing their ideas about addressing some of society's greatest challenges, including poverty, climate change, and immigration.

This is our way of supporting our communities: by providing NGOs, government institutions, and the business community with graduates who can take on their challenges, further their mission, and shape their contribution to building and strengthening democratic institutions.

Please join us in welcoming them into our communities in Ontario, elsewhere in Canada, and around the world. They're prepared to make a difference.



André Plourde
Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs
Carleton University

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FPA People

Robyn Gibbard: Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Economics

An alumnus of the Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management (BPAPM) program in 2012, Robyn will receive the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Economics at the June convocation.

When Robyn Gibbard applied for Carleton's Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management program in 2008, he imagined himself going to law school and eventually working in politics.

But as is often the case, his path veered in a different direction. Now, seven years later, he's on his way to the West Coast to pursue a Master's degree in Economics at Simon Fraser University.

You started your educational journey with a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management. What piqued your interest in public policy?

My parents were in the Canadian Foreign Service, so I grew up in Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Barbados and Venezuela. That really showed me how social and economic systems make a difference in people's lives. For example, everyone in Cuba is given a home and food rations, so no one is hungry or homeless. There is free education through the post-secondary level and many of the health outcomes are better than in the United States. But I also remember a time when we

were in a hospital in Cuba and the phone was ringing, but the receptionist was ignoring it. I asked my dad why, and he pointed out that she had a guaranteed job. So I learned about the trade-offs in that system.

It opened my eyes to the fact that every system has things you admire and other things that leave you scratching your head.

You were accepted into law school, but you decided to try working in a law firm first. What happened?

I spent six months working for a criminal lawyer in Ottawa as a legal assistant, mostly making court appearances, and I realized that wasn't the path I wanted to take.

So I decided to try politics, as an intern with the Parliamentary Internship Programme. Only ten students are selected in Canada and we each chose two Members of Parliament to work with: one in the government and the other in the opposition.

I worked with Conservative MP James Rajotte, the Chair of the Finance Committee, and Roger Cuzner, the Liberal critic for Labour and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

It was a great experience, but I realized I was less interested in the politics itself than in public policy.

How did your BPAPM degree prepare you for that experience?

It was fantastic because it's interdisciplinary, so we look at problems from many different points of view. We're taught to understand the legal context, the social context, the political context, and the policy process itself. When I was on Parliament Hill my work ended up touching on a wide range of policies and, because of my BPAPM degree, I felt I had a much richer understanding of each of them, an ability to see them from many different angles.

So you were able to rule out two career options in the course of a year. Some people spend their entire lives trying to figure that out.

I was really thankful I had those experiences because, in the case of law school, I would have spent three years and thousands of dollars before I found out that it wasn't right for me.

It's really easy to get on this treadmill after high school, start university and then go right into a master's, but I would really recommend taking some time off after high school and after your undergraduate degree to try things.

The next chapter in your journey will be in Economics. What attracted you to that?

I came from a background with no mathematics training, but I could see what a valuable skill this would be in public policy. So I did the one-year Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Economics. The mathematics was challenging, but the professors were great and it was such a small group—fewer than 20—that we worked together all the time.

What surprised me was that one of my favourite classes ended up being in econometrics, which is the application of statistical methods to economic data. I was nervous about it, but Professor Simon Power did a phenomenal job explaining complicated concepts.

After this one-year program, I had offers from several top schools and I was able to get a scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to pursue my master's degree in economics next year.

There's this idea in North America that math skills are something you're born with, but the truth is it's like any kind of literacy: if you work really hard, you'll learn it.



Graduating - 50 years apart: Hal Holt & Haley Ritchie



Hal Holt graduated with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and was one of only six students (all men) in the program that year. He had a long successful career in Human Resources for public sector reform projects in countries around the world.

Describe the MPA in 1965: The standards were exceptionally high and it was a heavy course load. In fact, I think all of us failed the exam in public law.

Faculty and Staff: We had really high-profile professors, including former MP Pauline Jewett and Ronald MacFarlane, who had led the MacFarlane Royal Commission on Education in Manitoba.

Classmates: There were only six of us and most went on to the public service. Since I was from Montreal, I was always interested in Anglo-French relations and the Quiet Revolution in Quebec. I did my research paper on that topic.

Living on campus: I was a residence fellow and one night, we intercepted some of our own students who had done a “panty raid” on the girls’ residence hall. They got into serious trouble. It was even on the front page of the Ottawa Citizen.

Advice for future grads: It doesn’t matter if your career takes a path that’s different from your degree. For me, the discipline and the discussions were more important in my career than the actual subject matter.

Haley Ritchie is graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Journalism (BJ) degree. She is one of 97 graduates in a program that’s about two-thirds female. She’s now working as a reporter for the Metro Ottawa newspaper.

Describe the BJ in 2015: It was intense. We were writing papers every week. Not just 500 words, but a story with at least three sources and background research. Believe me; I wasn’t watching a lot of Netflix.

Faculty and Staff: We had two legends of journalism, Kathryn O’Hara and Dick Gordon, teach us Intro to Radio Journalism and a war correspondence course. They invited journalists such as Anna Maria Tremonti and Carol Off from the CBC to come in and we interviewed them and wrote stories on behalf of the Canadian War Museum.

Classmates: This was a group of very intense, very ambitious and very talented students. It could be intimidating at times, but other days you would get lifted up by a story.

Living on campus: I lived in residence my first year. It was a super high energy atmosphere. My roommate and I decked our room out in second-hand hippie décor.

Advice for future grads: Take advantage of any opportunities that come along, whether it’s the university newspaper, an internship, or freelance writing. Employers will notice.

Katherine A. H. Graham Lecture on Aboriginal Policy

Indigenous Legal Perspectives as Policy and Research

Val Napoleon has been a community activist and consultant in northwestern BC for over 25 years, specializing in health, education, and justice issues. She is the Law Foundation Professor of Aboriginal Justice and Governance at the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, where she has worked on a number of projects relating to indigenous legal traditions, conflict management, education, and citizenship. Napoleon is from north east British Columbia (Treaty 8), a member of Saulteau First Nation, and an adopted member of the Gitanyow (Gitksan) House of Luuxhon, Ganada (Frog) Clan.



Thursday, June 11, 2015

5:30 pm

Riverview Boardroom

Register at: carleton.ca/fpa/kg12015



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Our Grads



Name:

Emma Bider

Kathleen Fielding

Katrina Crocker

Degree:

Combined Bachelor of Arts Honours (African Studies) with Bachelor of Journalism

Bachelor of Social Work Honours

Combined Bachelor of Arts Honours (Law and Political Science)

Future plans:

Master of Anthropology

Working in social work in Vancouver

Master of Public Administration/Juris Doctor at Queen's

Favourite class experience at Carleton:

The History of Gender and Sexuality in Africa

Working as a TA in Introduction to Disabilities with Professor Roy Hanes

Winning the national finals for the Osgoode Cup Undergraduate Mooting Tournament, a moot court competition

Enduring image:

The amazing discussions we had in that class with just 15 or 20 students

How welcomed I felt in Social Work as a mature student

Practices and dinners with my fellow "mooters"

Most pressing issue in Canada:

The lack of thoughtfulness in forming immigration policies and who we consider truly Canadian

The growing divide between rich and poor and the degradation of Canada's social safety net

Balancing security and privacy in light of Bill C-51

Most pressing issue globally:

The global South is growing and becoming more powerful. The West can no longer patronize them, but must help find solutions for issues like the massive refugee problem.

Poverty on a global scale

Security and privacy on a global scale

Education helps:

Being a journalist helps me explain complex issues in a way that's accurate, contextual, and all-encompassing, but also in a way that people will want to read about it.

I've learned to approach issues from a variety of perspectives: historical, social, economic, political, and cultural.

Carleton has allowed me to see the policy and legal matters that pertain to this issue more in-depth.

Advice for future Carleton students:

Trust your gut. If a topic really gets you excited, just take it.

Education has no age limit. Don't be afraid to engage with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Make sure you talk to professors, go to lectures and engage with your learning, particularly in areas that you may one day wish to research further.



Mariana Toledo

Dario Balca

Andrea Zakaib

Alison Farrell

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Economics)

Bachelor of Journalism Honours

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Communications)

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Criminology)

Law School/ McGill

Freelancer at CTVnews.ca in Toronto

Postgraduate Certificate in Corporate Communications & Public Relations at Centennial College

Master of Criminology

Professor Valerie Rochester's statistics classes. Statistics became my favourite subject!

We interviewed 18 well-known war correspondents for a Canadian War Museum exhibit called "War and Media".

As part of the Communications Undergraduate Student Society, I met lots of great students, teachers, and professionals. It made my university experience complete.

Youth Criminal Justice with Dr. Dale Spencer helped me realize my research interests. My research from this class allowed me to win the Faculty of Public Affairs Undergraduate Showcase Poster Contest.

Studying with friends in the student lounge

Hearing these legendary journalists open up to a bunch of students about some of their darkest memories of war

River Building: We're so lucky to have such a beautiful campus with the river and the canal right beside us.

The Staff and Faculty: I felt well supported by a university that took an interest in my success as a student and as an individual.

Immigration. Canada must be careful not to discourage immigrants who can't meet every requirement, but have great potential.

Aboriginal rights. I think the vast discrepancies in quality of life and opportunity faced by Aboriginal people as a result of Canadian history is still largely denied.

Getting the vote out among young people

Systemic inequality in the criminal justice system is an extremely pertinent issue.

The refugee crisis in African countries and Syria

Climate change. Even though there isn't much of a debate over climate change anymore, a lot of our industry and investments are counterproductive to the cause.

Human rights, especially for women, and climate change

Inequality, leading to unequal access to resources including education, unequal pathways to achieve normative financial goals, poverty, hunger, and in many instances, crime

I learned that when making decisions I should always look at both sides of everything and try to balance them in the best way as possible.

The most powerful tool to affecting change is solid, undeniable fact and the ability to disseminate it in an effective and accessible way.

It really opened my eyes to what's going on around the world and gives you the skills to think critically about what you see in the media.

I explored many theories from a variety of disciplines, which provided me with a broadened understanding of the causes and the enduring effects of these inequalities.

Study hard and the rewards will come.

First and foremost, pick a field you love. University is a long and challenging commitment that is difficult to go through if it isn't really meaningful to you.

Get involved and get to know your professors! It will give you so much more incentive to go to class and always do the best work you can do.

Meet your professors: They are an excellent resource if you are having trouble understanding course content, have questions about assignments or exams and helping you explore post-graduate opportunities.

A close-up portrait of a young woman with long, wavy, light brown hair and freckles, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with trees and a building.

Isabelle Crew

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Law)

Isabelle Crew came to Carleton as a first-year student with a thought of attending law school. Then she read a paper about the legal rights of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, a First Nation that stretches from Southern Ontario to northern Pennsylvania. As with the start of many future research projects, her curiosity was piqued.

What intrigued you about the story of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?

I found it fascinating. It's one of the oldest continuous constitutional systems in the world and it inspired the writers of the U.S. Constitution. But there's this assumption that it lacks modernity—that it's traditional, in a pejorative sense.

In my third year, I took a course in aboriginal law and I wrote a paper in which I analyzed its claim to sovereignty and self-determination under international law. I also published it in the *Carleton University Journal of Legal Studies*. Essentially, I demonstrate that the Haudenosaunee Confederacy meets the legal definition of a sovereign nation.

Why is that significant?

Dismissing their claim of sovereignty is not a legal argument, but more of an imperialistic

misunderstanding of the facts. What I'm trying to demonstrate is that we can't rely on a legal argument to explain the discrimination and the lack of rights granted to these communities. If we're founded on the rule of law, why isn't it being applied equitably?

How did your experience at Carleton support your interest in this field?

I was able to devote almost the entirety of my fourth year to this issue. My favourite class was a tutorial in law I took with Professor Betina Kuzmarov in which we focused on the evolution of sovereignty and self-determination. We had deep conversations about topics and readings that we both really cared about and were incredibly engaged with.

Experiences like that really shaped who I am in an academic capacity and pushed me intellectually to places I didn't even know I could reach. Really, I think that's the whole point of a university education.

What happens next in your journey?

I'll be attending law school at Queen's University, where I will be able to continue this research. It's all part of a new wave of international human rights law and it's a really exciting area to be in right now.

Carleton's first degrees were granted in Journalism and Public Administration in 1942 on the First Avenue campus in the Glebe. Both programs are now housed within the Faculty of Public Affairs. FPA was created in 1997, joining together twelve academic units.

7,700
students in FPA

55%
women

15%
international
students

Data from Fall 2014





Greg McClinchey

Master of Political Management

Greg McClinchey started in politics at age 15 when he volunteered for his local Member of Parliament and has since learned the ins and outs of the political world while on the job. Now the Chief of Staff for MP Judy Sgro, he decided to “codify” what he’d learned by attending the Riddell Graduate Program in Political Management.

You had 23 years of experience in politics. Why did you pursue this degree?

I wish I had done this 20 years ago, especially Paul Wilson’s class on the federal budget cycle. It would have saved me a lot of frustration. Instead, I learned by trial and error. But I wanted to do this to in some way validate my work experience.

What was the highlight for you?

The people: some of the richest learning came from discussions with my fellow students. There were international students, a Senate staffer, a provincial MPP, members of the diplomatic corps, and human rights observers.

In addition to that, the faculty who teach in the program served in the highest levels of the federal government and the guest speakers included a former prime minister, a former chief of staff, media pundits,

and industry leaders. It was an amazing experience to have that kind of access to these people.

How will this degree help you as you continue along your career path?

I don’t see it as another arrow in my quiver—I view it as the quiver itself. It ties together all of the ideas and experiences I’ve been developing for the past 23 years.

And the course is set up to encourage students to see every problem through a considered and ethically sound framework. Even if one opted to ignore that framework—which is unwise—it would be impossible not to be aware of it now.



A close-up portrait of Alibek Sergaliyev, a young man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a blue and white plaid shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the frame with a thoughtful expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with a sign that partially reads "Public Affairs".

Alibek Sergaliyev

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Economics)

Sitting next to Alibek Sergaliyev in your class added a whole new layer of learning to whatever was being taught. He brought a unique perspective to his courses: that of a citizen of Kazakhstan, a country wedged between China and Russia.

How does a Kazakh student find his way to the Carleton campus?

I grew up in the small village of Tsyganovo and my father was the first in the village to attend university. Then I won a presidential scholarship in my home country, which enabled me to attend a Canadian university to study economics. In return, I am going back to share and apply what I've learned as an economist.

How would you describe your experience in Canada?

It was wonderful and something I could only dream about. I will definitely miss the classes and the emphasis on practical applications. But even more than that, I am going to miss the social aspect of university life: the events, the parties, and meeting new people.

What have you learned in Canada and in Economics that might be applicable in Kazakhstan?

One thing I've observed in Canada is how productive

the people are. Productivity is a big issue in the Kazakh culture. There's a different mentality, so I hope I can bring some of this efficiency into my workplace when I return.

We also need to fight our dependence on natural resources and diversify the economy. It is happening—I see that some work is being done on that matter—but it's moving slowly.

What do you think your classmates learned from you?

I got involved with on-campus student groups, so I met lots of people and attended social events every week. These were the best years of my life so far.

Is there any advice you would offer other students who will be starting at Carleton?

Enjoy every minute of it. There is a stereotype about Kazakhstan because of the movie *Borat*. I feel like it's my mission to break that stereotype and tell people it's not like that at all. My people are very hospitable: if anyone comes into my house, we automatically serve them tea.

What's next?

I owe my country five years of work as an economist.



Andrew Walker

Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (MPNL)

In June, Andrew will be one of the first students to graduate from the Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (MPNL) program. After earning a BA in English and Humanities at York University in 1998, Walker began his career in the nonprofit sector. He is now the Chief Operating Officer of Community Living Huronia in Midland, Ontario.

You were working with nonprofits for about ten years when you decided to pursue a Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. What drew you to that program?

My goal was to move into a senior leadership position within the nonprofit sector, but there aren't many of those because nonprofits have a very horizontal structure. I hoped this degree would enable me to make that move, and it absolutely did.

How did the MPNL degree help you in your career?

I hadn't even finished yet, but I was interviewing for my current job and they were asking me a lot about the courses, what I had learned, and how I would apply it in this position. So it helped me 100 percent.

It sounds like a fairly practical program.

Definitely. We worked on social media strategies, financial forecasting, conducted research and evaluation, and designed business plans for nonprofits. Plus, I learned a lot from the guest speakers: academics, practitioners, business people, nonprofit professionals, and my fellow students.

What will be your biggest challenge in this new job?

Nonprofits are in a strict funding environment, but we discussed different ways to generate revenue outside of government. I'm looking forward to bringing that into my present role because I work with lots of people who have fantastic ideas and I want to give them the resources they need.

What's the best part of your job?

Our clients are people with developmental disabilities who often feel isolated and don't have access to the full benefits of our community. It is tremendously rewarding to see them achieve full citizenship and inclusion within our communities.

FPA Professional Institute

Workshops for industry professionals

Policy Advocacy and Social Change

Dates: May 28*-30

*evening

Price: \$350.00 plus HST per person (non-profit and student rates available)

Doing Fieldwork in Africa

Dates: June 6-7

Price: \$400.00 plus HST per person (student rates available)

Strategic Communication Planning for Non-Profit Organizations

Dates: June 9-10

Price: \$350.00 plus HST per person

Compelling Content and Digital Media Communications

Dates: June 24-26

Price: \$565.00 plus HST per person

Telling Your Story with Data

Dates: June 26*-28 *evening optional

Price: \$250.00 plus HST per person (student rates available)

carleton.ca/fpa-professionalinstitute

Register Now!



On your way...



We know there were late nights, empty pizza boxes, tired eyelids and maybe a week or two with no clean laundry. Ironically, you may find you miss it someday. And we will miss you.



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