Robert Alan Dahl Award (Outstanding Senior)
Robert A. Dahl graduated from the University of Washington in 1936 and went on to become one of the most distinguished political scientists of his generation. He earned a Ph.D. from Yale in 1940 and became a professor at Yale in 1946 and remained there until his retirement in 1986. He was elected president of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in 1966. Two of his books, Who Governs (1962) and Democracy and Its Critics (1990) received APSA’s Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award as the Best Book of the Year in American Politics. In 1978 he received APSA’s first James Madison Award, given to a scholar whose career is deemed to have been preeminent. In 1982 he was honored by the University of Washington as Alumnas Summa Laude Dignatus.

2017 – Anna Caroline Mikkelborg
2016 – Johnathan Tyler Mills
2015 – Daniel Robert Miller
2014 – Rutger Lukas Ceballos
2013 – Shelby Paige Woods
2012 – Mikael Samson Yitre
2011 – Alison Davis
2010 – Julia Abelev
2009 – Jay Paul Singh
2008 – Ambrogino Guisti
2007 – James Malone
2006 – Jennifer W. Howk
2004 – Amy Nicole Ramsey
2003 – Elizabeth Arizu Zamora
2002 – Stephanie McNees and Jasmine Weaver
2001 – Erik Daniel Pearson
2000 – Erik Mobrand
1999 – Theresa Ann Buckley and Carew Elizabeth Boulding
1998 – Alina Ann McLauchian and Ralph Paul Stimers
1997 – Heather Deneen Dash and Steven Andrew Miller
1996 – Ian Michael Goodhew
1995 – Michael Philip Corcoro
1994 – Loren Brett Landau
1993 – Jocelyn Inger Peterson
1992 – Steven George Ojemann
1991 – Wendy Elizabeth Franz
1990 – James S. Philipp
Daniel S. Lev Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis

Daniel S. Lev was an eminent scholar in comparative politics and comparative legal systems, with a special expertise on law, politics and human rights in Southeast Asia. He taught with distinction in the graduate and undergraduate programs of the University of Washington Political Science departments for nearly 30 years. Lev developed the department Honors program into a model of intellectual inquiry that has been emulated across the UW campus and around the nation.

2017 – Tyler James Pichette, “Populism, Deindustrialization, and Resentment: The Political Economy of Trump & Brexit”

2016 – Lauren Ariella Mittman, “What is Past is Prologue: Compromised Minority Representation in the American South”


- Griffin Thomas Smith, "A Sleepwalking Society: The American Dream in the Twentieth Century"

2012 – Chad Thomas Johnson, "The Effect of Locally Designated Job Access Reverse Commute Programs on Employment of the Poor in Los Angeles”

2011 – Sean A. Freeder, "Electoral Spending Shifts in a Post-Citizens United America” and Jeffrey Jon Ostrove, "On the Normative Concept in an Anti-realist Sense"

2010 – Samuel Holden Garfield, "Politics in the University District Farmers' Market: Towards a Political Anthropology of Markets”


2008 – Charlotte Sanders, "Media, Militants and Elections: An Analysis of the Portrayal of Hamas in U.S. Print Media”

2007 – Christopher Dmitri Berk, "Politicizing the Prison” and Robin H. Engle, "Public Financing and State Gender Diversity”

2006 – Jennifer W. Howk, "The Truly Socialist War on Terror: Revolution and Redefinition in Post-Soviet Cuba” and Elizabeth Lyly Mai Harrington, "Young Russian Women and the Corporatization of the Individual”

2005 – Candace Lynn Faber, "Ghosts that Bear Arms: Nostalgia and Russian military involvement in the former Soviet states”


2001 – Lael Karen Weis, "Remembering Forgetfulness: An aesthetic re-reading of democratic politics” and Jeffrey Keith Roberson, "Incremental removal of sanctions: two case studies in increased effectiveness of sanctions”

2000 – Erik Mobrand, "Foreign Aid and Embedded Liberalism: the case of US aid to Russia”

1999 – Aram Adam Meade, "The Post Authorities Dilemma: Can Nascent Democracies Find Justice For Past Political Crimes”
Sharon Redeker Award (Outstanding Achievement in Public Service)

Sharon Redeker served as the Department of Political Science's Academic Services Director for 15 years and was an integral part of the UW campus for almost 30 years. During this time, Redeker developed the Department's internship and volunteer service programs placing hundreds of students in public service positions. Her commitment to citizenship and public spirit remains at the core of our program.

The Redeker Award is granted each year to a graduating senior with outstanding achievement in the area of public service.

2017 – Diana Betancourt
2016 – Daniel Keum & Samuel Miller Wright
2015 – Emily Erin Lake
2014 – Courtney Michelle Arrington
2013 – Janice Yuet Chun Leung
2012 – Elizabeth Ann Saurwein
2011 – Scott B. Davis
2010 – Martin Duglas Sepulveda
2009 – Helen Hoang Ho
2008 – Joseph Allen Stockton
2007 – Nicholas Austin Fusso
2006 – Tsering Lhadon Dhongthog
2005 – Lindsay Danielle Scola
2004 – F. Lee Hinebaugh
2003 – Julianna P. Rigg

Graduate Student Teaching Award

2017 – Emma Rodman, Nora Williams, Xiao Ma
2016 – Vanessa Quince
2015 – Jared Stewart
2014 – Tania Melo
2013 – Joannie Tremblay-Boire
2012 – Josh Eastin
2011 – Jason Lambacher and Allison Rank
2010 – Andrew Cockrell
2009 – Deepa Bhandaru
2008 – Lawrence Cushnie
2007 – Julianna P. Rigg
2006 – Joshua Sapotiche
2005 – Adrian C. Sinkler
2004 – Talal S. Hattar
2003 – Turan Kayaoglu
2002 – Katherine E. Stenger
2001 – David J. Watkins and Yoshinori Nishizaki

Graduate Student Paper Award

Best Paper Presented at a Conference

2017 – Mathieu Dubeau, “Reclaiming Species-Being: Toward an Interspecies Historical Materialism”

2016 – Aaron Erlich, “Shaping Citizens’ Expectations with Pre-Election Information: Evidence from a Laboratory Experiment in the Country of Georgia”


2013 – Nicholas Stramp, "Presidents Profiting From Disasters: Evidence of Presidential Distributive Politics"


2009 – Taedong Lee, "Global Cities and Climate Change"

2008 – Brian Greenhill, "International Socialization and the Diffusion of Human Rights Norms"

2007 – Adrian C. Sinkler - "Privatizing the Patrimony: State-Society Relations and the Demand for Private Rights in Rural Mexico"

2006 – Umut Aydin - "Competition and Cooperation: Subsidies in the US, Canada and the EU"

2005 – John Ahlquist - "Fiscal Policy and Capital Flows in the North and South"

2004 – Christian K. Breunig, "Distribution of Budget Changes in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States"


2002 – Tamir M. Moustafa - "Law Versus the State: Credible Commitments and the Establishment of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt"

2001 – Tracy E. Sulkin, "Legislators' Responsiveness to Campaign Themes: Toward an Agenda-Based Model of Representation." and Benjamin B. Smith, "Collective Action With and Without Islam: Mobilizing the Bazaar in Iran"

Stuart A. Scheingold Award (for Best Graduate Student Paper in the Public Law Field)

Stuart A. Scheingold is an eminent scholar in the study of law and society. He has conducted pioneering research regarding the European Court of Justice, the politics of rights advocacy, political discourse about crime, and cause lawyering, among other topics. Scheingold contributed to a vibrant tradition of graduate and undergraduate education in the Political Science field of public law for over 30 years at the University of Washington. In honor of this legacy, the Scheingold Award is awarded annually to the best graduate student paper in the public law field.

2017 – Chelsea Moore and Emma Rodman, "It Would Mean Little Absent Governmental Recognition: Dignity, Legal Personhood, and State Power in Obergefell v. Hodges"


2012 – Betsy Cooper, "Rights Discourses and Framing: Lesbian and Gay Anti-Discrimination Policy in Washington State"


2011 – Seth Greenfest, "Jurisdiction-Granting: Legislative Capacity and Ideological Distance"

2010 – Christopher Heurlin, "Information and Legacies: Electoral Volatility in the Post Communist World"

2009 – Annie Menzel - "The SCHIP's "fetus option": An intimate geography of the global racial regime of citizenship."

2008 – Shauna Fisher - "It Takes (At Least) Two to Tango: Fighting with Words in the Conflict over Same-Sex Marriage"


2006 – Jennifer Fredette, "What Not to Wear: A Legal Mobilization Approach to Explaining Recent Rights Claiming in France"

2004 – Ceren Belge - “Friends of the Court: The Republican Alliance and Selective Activism of the Constitutional Court of Turkey”

2003 – Glenn D. Mackin - “Feminism and Paradigms of Law”

2002 – Claire E. Rasmussen


Philo S. Bennett Prize (for Best Graduate Student Paper on Free Government)

2017 – Stephanie Stanley, “Social Movements and Electoral Politics: The Effects of Political Organization on Political Strategy”

2016 – Andreu Casas Salleras and Nora Webb Williams, “Images that Matter: Online Protest and the Mobilizing Role of Pictures”

2015 – Seth Trenchard, “The Pleasure of Judgment and Its Use: Rethinking the Subject in Aesthetic Judgment”

2014 – Amanda Clayton

2013 – Deepa Bhandaru

2012 – James Chamberlain

2011 – Daniel Berliner

Linden A. Mander Prize (for Best Graduate Paper in International Relations)

2016 – Chris Colligan and Christopher Whyte, "Concordance in Digital Affairs: Cyber Threats and Threat Inflation in Civil Military Perspectives"

2015 – Daniel Yoo, "Financial Intermediaries, Capital Account Liberalization, and Financial Sector Reform in Latin America"

2014 – Meredith Loken

2013 – Eric Schwab

2012 – Mary Anne Madeira

Takarnath Das Prize (for Best Graduate Paper in Comparative and International Politics)

2016 – Beatrice Magistro, "The Asymmetric Effects of the Eurozone Crisis on Support for Democracy"

2015 – Xiao Ma, "Term Limit and Authoritarian Power-Sharing: Theory and Evidence from China"

2014 – Andrew Cockrell

Camden Hall Graduate Research Grant

The Camden Hall Graduate Research Grant is awarded for expenses related to research on topics in American politics and constitutionalism, particularly issues related to equality and voting rights and to freedom of speech, thought, assembly, or religion. The funds are not limited to studies of constitutional law. Studies of politics that relate to constitutionalism in its broader political and social context are also eligible.

2016 - Sean Butorac

2015 - Andreu Casas and Nora Williams

Ione E. Curtis Graduate Research Grant
David J. Olson Graduate Research Grant

The David J. Olson Graduate Research Grant is awarded for expenses related to research on regional governments and subgovernments (e.g., state, regional, local) or research related to work or the politics of labor.

2016 - Daniel Yoo and Anna Zelenc
2015 - Erin Adam and David Lopez

Peter May Graduate Research Grant

The Peter May Graduate Research Grant provides two awards for expenses related to research in any field of political science.

2016 - Meredith Loken
2015 - Crystal Pryor