

“It is an affront to treat falsehood with complacency.” Thomas Paine

CAMPUS REPORT

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OBAMA U

By: Malcolm A. Kline

23 Obama Administration officials have already left the government for academia.
An AIA Special Report

In what might be a record, 23 Obama Administration officials have already left the government for academia.

Two cabinet officials are in this mix. Interestingly, both held the same position—chair of the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA).

Another interesting note is that of the aforementioned group, seven, or about one-third of the total—decamped for Harvard. Yet and still, there is at least one indication that the exodus continues unabated.

“The Graduate School of Political Management has whittled the pool of candidates for its next executive director down to four political and press mavens, nearly one year after initiating the search,” Andrea Vittorio reported in the *GW Hatchet* on November 17, 2011. “In the second attempt to name a new leader for the school of practical politics, former U.S. Rep Mark Kennedy, R-Minn., four-time press secretary Maxine Isaacs, former U.S. Rep. Rick Lazio, R-N.Y. and an undisclosed sub-cabinet official in the Obama administration are being considered for the high-profile administrative role.” The *GW Hatchet* is the student newspaper at George Washington University.

The mystery VIP would join an illustrious line-up. What follows is a list of former Obama Administration officials. Their names are followed by their one-time government job titles and their current places of employment in academia.

All but three—Melissa Hathaway, Susan Sher and Annie Tomasini—are now either professors or scholars-in-residence at institutions of higher learning:

Obama Alums in Academia

1. **David Barron**, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel; Honorable S. William Green Professor of Public Law Harvard
2. **Susan Crawford**, President Barack Obama’s Special Assistant for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy; Cardozo Law School
3. **Philip J. Crowley**, State Department Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs; Omar Bradley Chair in Strategic

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Director's Corner

By Malcolm A. Kline, Executive Director of AIA



January 2012

Dear Reader,

We hope that you are having a happy new year. As well, we hope that you find our offerings useful, entertaining and informative.

In our last issue, we offered up Columbia University economist Joseph Stiglitz as an argument against tenure. We still think that he may have been on the job too long.

In his book, *The Trillion Dollar War*, he argued that the subprime mortgage crisis resulted from America's military intervention in Iraq. Earlier in the decade, he dismissed fears that Fannie Mae's easy money policies would leave taxpayers on the hook for substantial losses. The government-sponsored enterprise commissioned the Stiglitz study.

Nevertheless, we have unearthed evidence that at one point in his career, Stiglitz undertook genuinely ground-breaking economic research. In a trio of studies in the 1970s, Stiglitz found that estate taxes, whose detractors call them "death taxes," do more harm than good.

"Another prominent study by Joseph Stiglitz concluded that taxes on wealth transfers may even cause an increase of income inequality," Tax Foundation economist David S. Logan told the Pennsylvania House Finance Committee on October 17, 2011. "Two subsequent studies undertaken by Stiglitz resulted in his explicit conclusion that 'it would seem clear that inheritances are unambiguously equality increasing.'"

Perhaps Stiglitz was chagrined by his own findings. Still and all, he deserves credit for "doing the right thing," as Spike Lee would say, in his research. Here at AIA, we are only too happy to give credit where credit is due. Unfortunately, we usually get to deal with the other side of the equation. Either way, we undertake our research in order to show you what is actually happening in higher education.

We could not exist without your support.

All the best,

Mal Kline,
Executive Director

Voodoo Anyone?

How to Understand Economics Without Really Trying



by

Christopher T. Warden

Forewords by M. Stanton Evans & Malcolm A. Kline


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- Leadership, Penn State/War College
4. **Ezekiel J. Emanuel**, White House adviser; an oncologist and vice provost and professor at the University of Pennsylvania
 5. **Austan Goolsbee**, Chair, CEA; Professor of Economics, University of Chicago*
 6. **Melissa Hathaway**, acting senior director for cyberspace at the National Security Council; Senior Advisor, Explorations in Cyber International Relations, Harvard
 7. **Lisa Heinzerling**, Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation; Professor of Law at Georgetown University
 8. **Van Jones**, Special Adviser on Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in the Council on Environmental Quality; distinguished visiting fellow in the Center for African American Studies and in the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton
 9. **Juliette N. Kayyem**, Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Programs, Homeland Security Department; Lecturer in Public Policy, Kennedy School, Harvard
 10. **Vivek Kundra**, Federal Chief Information Officer of the United States; Harvard Fellow
 11. **Martin Lederman**, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel; Associate Professor of Law, Georgetown
 12. **Michel Leiter**, Head of the National Counterterrorism Center; Center on Law and Security Scholar in Residence, New York University
 13. **Andrew McLaughlin**, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, Internet Policy, White House



- Executive Director, Civic Commons; Lecturer in Law, Stanford Law School, Fellow, Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society
14. **Daniel Meltzer**, Principal Deputy, White House Counsel (January 2009-June 2010); Story Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
 15. **Vali Nasr**, Senior adviser to Afpak Special Envoy, State Department; Professor of International Politics, Tufts University
 16. **Christina Romer**, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; economics professor, Berkeley *
 17. **Susan Sher**, Chief of Staff, Michelle Obama; Executive Vice President for Corporate Strategy and Public Affairs, University of Chicago Medical Center
 18. **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, Director of Policy Planning, State Department; Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton
 19. **Sean Smith**, Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Affairs, Homeland Security Department; Teaches media, politics and global affairs at Yale University, Director of the Capstone Projects at Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs
 20. **James B. Steinberg**, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State; Dean of Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and University Professor of Social Science, International Affairs and Law
 21. **Lawrence H. Summers**, Director, National Economic Council; Charles W. Eliot University Professor, Harvard
 22. **Annie Tomasini**, Deputy Press Secretary/Vice President Biden; Harvard (Director of Governmental Relations)
 23. **Donald Winter**, former Secretary of the Navy; University of Michigan Professor of Engineering Science

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Sources: The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, USA.gov, federal agency websites, college and university web sites.

* Cabinet members

Many are returning to their old haunts. Still and all, for Republican appointees that is rarely an option. “Although I went into the administration as a Democrat and came out as an independent, I didn’t realize how much I had shocked my colleagues by working in a Republican administration,” NYU professor Diane Ravitch remembered of the time she had spent as an appointee of George H. W. Bush.

Indeed, for Republican scholars, leaving academia for a government appointment when their party is in office is rather like tots leaving Toyland: Once they pass its borders, they can never return again.

In several studies undertaken by Accuracy in Academia, we found that about half of President Clinton’s cabinet and one-third of President Carter’s left government service for university chairs, compared to a trio each from President Reagan’s two terms in office and his hapless successor’s single term in the White House, even when the Ivory Tower was their point of origin.



LIFE & DEATH IN ACADEMIA

By: Malcolm A. Kline

Putting the power of life and death in anyone’s hands is a dubious undertaking, to put it mildly. Giving such responsibility to a pair of academics is questionable, at best.

“Senior Al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki and another America-born militant were killed in Yemen early Friday morning by a CIA-led U.S. drone strike, marking the highest-profile takedown of terror leaders since the raid on Usama bin Laden’s compound,” Jennifer Griffin & Justin Fishel reported on Fox News.com on September 30, 2011.



“Sensing they were on sensitive ground, officials of the Obama Administration illegally leaked information to The New York Times about the policy, indicating that Obama relied on a 50-page

Department of Justice memo for justification to kill al-Awlaki,” Cliff Kincaid of Accuracy in Media reported last month. “It was principally drafted by David Barron and Martin Lederman, who were both lawyers in the Office of Legal Counsel at the time, and was signed by Mr. Barron,” the Times claimed.

“But these are the Obama lawyers who were supposed to stop this kind of thing in the executive branch,” Kincaid points out.

“One of the more interesting storylines unfolding

right now is President Obama’s ongoing appointment to the Office of Legal Counsel, of lawyers who strongly opposed George W. Bush’s use of the war on terror to justify dramatic expansions of executive power,” liberal blogger Greg Sargent of The Washington Post said in January of 2009.

These lawyers included Martin Lederman and David Barron.

“A veteran of the Clinton administration OLC [Office of Legal Counsel], Barron spent ten years teaching law at Harvard University,” a Washington Post political profile of Barron said. “During that time, he was critical of the George W. Bush administration, claiming that the White House used the war on terror to justify increasing executive power.”

“Hence, Obama appointed lawyers who had been critical of how Bush used executive powers against terrorists but turned around once they joined the Obama Administration to endorse such powers, even to the extent of using them to kill an American abroad,” Kincaid stated. “Barron is back at Harvard, while Lederman is now at Georgetown University.”



They did not get rave reviews there either. “How did he get this far while being so disorganized?” one of

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Lederman's students asked on Rate My Professors.com. "A nice guy, but he never seemed able to figure out the syllabus, and we used our exam review session to introduce new material (an article about war powers which he just finished writing, naturally)."

"He then spent six months trying to plan our class dinner," the student added but noted that Lederman was "Nice to have a beer with, though."

At least Lederman teaches International Relations. Barron teaches property law, and opinions on his pedagogical manner vary, to say the least:

- "Don't waste your time... your [sic] better off watching Court TV!!!" one reviewer opined.

- "He told me that my first baby would be a witch," another reviewer recounted. "UNCOOL to say."
- "Great professor, really clear and easy to follow," one of his favorable reviews read. "His only problem is that he sometimes tucks his shirt into his underwear and it peeks out over the top of his pants."

Malcolm A. Kline is the Executive Director of Accuracy in Academia. If you would like to comment on this article, e-mail mal.kline@academia.org

WAR COLLEGE'S IDENTITY CRISIS

By: Malcolm A. Kline

Marrying the professoriate to America's fighting force is a marriage even a Las Vegas official wouldn't bless, yet such a union is taking place right now in Pennsylvania.

Last summer, Philip J. Crowley stepped down from his post as a State Department spokesman before stepping into a War College fellowship in conjunction with Penn State. What preceded his exit from Foggy Bottom were some undiplomatic comments that he made about the Army's treatment of Private Bradley Manning, who leaked classified documents to WikiLeaks.



"The unauthorized disclosure of classified information is a serious crime under U.S. law," Crowley stated in his resignation letter on March 13, 2011. "My recent comments regarding the conditions of the pre-trial detention of Private First Class Bradley Manning were intended to highlight the broader, even strategic impact of discrete actions undertaken by national security agencies every day and their impact on our global standing and leadership."

"The exercise of power in today's challenging times and relentless media environment must be prudent and

consistent with our laws and values." He had not parsed his words nearly so carefully at MIT, where he made his initial observations.

"I just heard an extraordinary remark from State Department spokesman P. J. Crowley," BBC journalist Philippa Thomas recounted in a blog that appeared on March 10, 2011, three days before Crowley tendered his resignation. "He was speaking to a small audience at MIT on 'the benefits of new media as it relates to foreign policy,' an event organised by the Center for Future Civic Media."

"Around twenty of us were sitting around the table listening to his views on social media, the impact of the Twittersphere, the Arab uprisings, and so on, in a vast space-age conference room overlooking the Charles River and the Boston skyline. And then, inevitably, one young man said he wanted to address 'the elephant in the room.' What did Crowley think, he asked, about Wikileaks? About the United States, in his words, 'torturing a prisoner in a military brig?' Crowley didn't stop to think. What's being done to Bradley Manning by my colleagues at the Department of Defense 'is ridiculous and counterproductive and stupid.' He paused. 'None the less Bradley Manning is in the right place.' And he went on lengthening his answer, explaining why in

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Washington's view, 'there is sometimes a need for secrets... for diplomatic progress to be made.'

Crowley came to his State Department posting after a stint at the George Soros-funded Center for American Progress, never known as a defense think tank, at least by those who think about defense.

Crowley's War College appointment is of a piece with other recent developments at that institution. A teacher at the National Defense University told Yale lecturer Charles

Hill, who teaches a course in Grand Strategy, "I take my class up to Yale just to hear your talk."

"Why aren't you teaching it at the War College?" Hill asked.

"Oh," came the response, "It's too hot." Hill points to Ronald Reagan, who he served, as a model of an ideal presidency which emphasizes both diplomacy and a strong defense in the conduct of foreign policy.

DR. FEELGOOD, USA

By: Malcolm A. Kline

When academics help to craft a law, they can take a leave of absence to shepherd it through Congress, then go back to class to proclaim its virtues. The rest of us get to live under the statute.

"The new Obama health law puts important decisions about your care in the hands of presidential appointees," Betsy McCaughey wrote in her 2010 pamphlet, *Obama Health Law: What it says and how to overturn it* (Encounter Books). "They will decide what insurance plans cover, how much leeway your doctor will have, and what seniors get under Medicare."

"Chief among these advisors is Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, brother of White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel." Since McCaughey, a former lieutenant governor of New York, typed those words, Rahm Emanuel has become mayor of Chicago while his brother has landed at the University of Pennsylvania where he serves as vice-provost and professor.

"Dr. Emanuel has already been appointed to two key positions: health policy advisor at the Office of Management and Budget and member of the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research," McCaughey noted of his White House years. "Dr. Emanuel says that health care reform will not be pain-free and that the usual recommendations for cutting medical spending (often urged by the president) are mere window dressing."

McCaughey offers extensive quotes from the good doctor which appeared in the popular press and in medical journals. Since these were his advice, as quoted

in public, one might wonder what chilling, hair-raising counsel he offered his brother and his boss privately.

"Vague promises of savings from cutting waste, enhancing prevention and wellness, installing electronic medical records, and improving quality are merely 'lipstick' cost control, more for show and public relations than for true change," Dr. Emanuel wrote in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on February 27, 2008.

Dr. Emanuel gave us an idea of what true change would involve. "When implemented, the complete lives system produces a priority curve on which individuals aged between roughly 15 and 40 years get the most substantial chance, whereas the youngest and oldest people get chances that are attenuated," he wrote in an article which appeared in *The Lancet* on January 31, 2009.

"Unlike allocation by sex or race, allocation by age is not invidious discrimination," he explained. "Treating 65-year-olds differently because of stereotypes or falsehoods would be ageist: Treating them differently because they have already had more life-years is not."

Malcolm A. Kline is the Executive Director of Accuracy in Academia. If you would like to comment on this article, e-mail mal.kline@academia.org

THE EVERYMAN ELITE

By: Malcolm A. Kline

The authors who are read most widely are those who are no longer around. Former Accuracy in Academia executive director Dan Flynn pays homage to a quartet of them in his latest book, *Blue Collar Intellectuals*.

America may never again see the likes of Will and Ariel Durant, Mortimer Adler, Milton Friedman and Eric Hoffer. For one thing, all ascended to intellectual heights from modest means, if not actual penury.

Moreover, although their political viewpoints spanned the ideological spectrum, all shared a love of country, namely the one in which they lived and worked. For example, Will and Ariel Durant, authors of *The Story of Civilization*, came away from their first European jaunt something less than enamored.

"Seeing the basket-case states of postwar Europe made Durant pine for home rather than rail against it," Flynn writes. "We had compared our country not with other nations of this earth but with some perfect state which we had pictured in our dreams," Will Durant admitted.

What really set him apart from the intelligentsia, though, was his disparagement of the Soviet Union. They never quite forgave him for that even though he spent most of his nine decades on the planet as a fairly liberal Democrat.

Encyclopædia Britannica co-founder Mortimer Adler suffered a similar fate for his efforts to achieve wide circulation for the Great Books of Western Civilization. "From establishing world government to saving the ozone layer to compulsory service to the state, Mortimer Adler endorsed many political fads during his ninety-eight years," Flynn writes. "But the cause of his century

couldn't be more grating to the faddish cognoscenti."

"No number of obligations to the gods of fashion could undo that cardinal sin." Flynn's next two subjects – free market economist Milton Friedman and "longshoreman philosopher" Eric Hoffer – never felt obliged to fashionable gods.

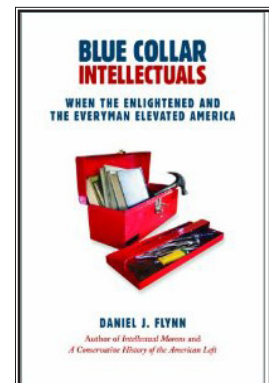
"The only relevant test of the validity of a hypothesis is comparison of its predictions with experience," Friedman averred. That view of academic research alone would put him at odds with most of what passes for scholarship in academia today.

Eric Hoffer, although he refused to be pigeonholed politically, also resisted the group think of elites. "My knowledge of the intellectual is not based on first-hand experience," Hoffer stated. "I've probably met half a dozen intellectuals in my life."

"But I always say to myself, 'If Marx, who never knew anything about the workingman, who [had] never done a day's work in his life, could write about workingmen, then why the heck shouldn't I be able to write about intellectuals?'"



Daniel J. Flynn



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