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Miller Center Announces Winner of First Annual Undergraduate Research Award

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., March 26, 2009—The University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs is pleased to announce the recipient of the first annual Miller Center Undergraduate Research Award. Gabrielle Plotkin, a third-year student pursuing a double major in Government and Studies in Women and Gender at U.Va., will conduct research over the 2009–10 academic year, analyzing the political influence of Native Americans in the United States.

"Gabrielle's frustration that so little scholarship about Native American politics existed became the motivation for undertaking her own study," said faculty advisor Vesla Weaver, Faculty Associate in the Miller Center's Governing America in a Global Era Program (GAGE) and Assistant Professor in U.Va.'s Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics. "Her proposed program of research will make a major contribution to the field of Race Politics."

The Miller Center Undergraduate Research Award provides \$4,000 to an undergraduate student and \$1,000 to his or her faculty advisor (typically a scholar from the Miller Center's Academic, Public, or Policy Programs) for completion of a major research project. Student research should be conducted within disciplines related to the work of the Miller Center, and should centrally utilize the Miller Center's resources, including its archives, presidential oral histories, presidential recordings, *American President: An Online Reference Resource* web site, and commission reports.

"The Miller Center Undergraduate Research Award falls squarely with our mission to provide a vital link between cutting edge scholarship and public affairs," said Miller Center Assistant Director for Academic Programs Sidney M. Milkis. "Gabrielle Plotkin's well-conceived project on Native American politics is just the sort of research the Miller Center had in mind in establishing this award."

For more information about the Miller Center Undergraduate Research Award, please contact Anne Mulligan, Coordinator for Academic Programs, at acm8k@virginia.edu.

The Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution aimed at bringing together engaged citizens, scholars, members of the media, and government officials to focus on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with a special interest in the American presidency.

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