Tribute to Fred Greenstein (Wilbur Cross Medal)

David R Mayhew
A Special Public Lecture
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
12:00-1:15 p.m.
ISPS, 77 Prospect Street, Room A001

Featuring Wilbur Cross Medalist

Fred I. Greenstein

"The Study of Political Psychology: An Autobiographical Perspective"

Fred I. Greenstein is one of the outstanding academicians to receive this year's Wilbur Cross Medal, the Graduate School's highest honor. He is currently Professor of Politics Emeritus at Princeton University. His books include Children and Politics (1965), Personality and Politics (1969), The Hidden-Hand Presidency: Eisenhower as Leader (1982), How Presidents Test Reality (1989, with John P. Burke), The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama (2009), and Inventing the Job of President: Leadership Style from George Washington to Andrew Jackson (2009). He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and past president of the International Society for Political Psychology. He received a B.A. from Antioch College in 1953 and a Ph.D. from Yale University in 1960.

Lunch will be served.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit http://www.yale.edu/csap/seminars/ or contact Pam Greene: pamela.greene@yale.edu; 203-432-3052.

Thursday, September 30, 2010 AOL: Davidrmayhew
Award of Wilbur Cross Medal to Fred Greenstein
Yale University, 10/5/10

Introduction:

It is my great pleasure to welcome Professor Fred Greenstein to this ceremony. The Wilbur Cross Medal is Yale’s highest honor awarded to its graduate school Ph.D.s.

Fred graduated from Antioch College in 1953 (he has told me about Antioch, which he loved, back then), went on to a Ph.D. in Political Science at Yale, then to a starting academic position at Wesleyan, the on to Princeton.

He has been a major builder of knowledge
--in political psychology, as in his *Children and Politics* and *Personality and Politics*.
--In the political science trade generally, as in his coedited *Handbook of Political Science*.
--of presidential (and leadership) studies, in his vastly influential revisionist interpretation of President Eisenhower in *The Hidden-Hand Presidency* and more recently in *The Presidential Difference*.

Most of all, Fred is an old friend. We keep in touch. He reads more widely anyone else we know, and I always enjoy hearing what he comes up with.

For me, it has been an honor to help prepare for this ceremony.
Dear Professor Mayhew,

I used your inscription as written, and the medal looks fabulous. Thank you!

I have made some slight edits to the citation and would be pleased to receive your blessing, or hear your objections. Please see the attached. I will have to submit the final citations to the graphic designer at the end of the day tomorrow.

I removed reference to “Yale Ph.D. in 1960” because that phrase will have been used by the dean just before the citation is read. I changed “swerved” to “pivoted” because I kept thinking of car crashes (though I liked the vividness of your verb). I omitted the rhetorical questions at the end of paragraph #2 because I didn’t think they quite worked in a citation.

Would you want to add anything to this sentence: “You crafted a grid for assessing leadership qualities.” An influential grid, a useful grid, a grid that gave weight to new qualities?

I think the citation for Greenstein is excellent. There will also be a full page bio for each medalist in the dinner program.

Thank you very much for everything you have done to make the celebration for Fred Greenstein a memorable experience.

With best wishes,
Julia

Julia Downs
Associate Director for Graduate School Alumni Relations
Association of Yale Alumni
P.O. Box 209010
New Haven, CT 06520-9010
(203) 432-1942 phone
(203) 432-8144 fax

From: Downs, Julia
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 4:49 PM

Printed for David Mayhew <david.mayhew@yale.edu> 9/29/2010
Dear Professor Mayhew,

The citation and inscription are excellent – thank you so much! I quite liked "DEMYSTIFIER OF EISENHOWER," even before reading your explanation.

When I have all five citations in hand for this year’s medalists, I may find that I have a question, but for now this is just perfect! Thanks again.

With best wishes,
Julia

see attachment

greenSTEIN citation-edits shown.doc
Distinguished scholar of political psychology, political science, and political history, you went from graduate studies at Yale first to Wesleyan University and then to a long career at Princeton. In your early work, you showed us how to study children’s perceptions of political authority. In 1975, as coeditor of the eight-volume Handbook of Political Science you helped establish a canonical definition of that discipline. Then you pivoted your attention to the topic of U.S. presidential leadership, where your mark has been lasting. In your classic work, The Hidden-Hand Presidency: Eisenhower as Leader, you changed forever our view of that president. Through your inventive sifting of evidence, Eisenhower morphed from a recessive bumbler—the received wisdom—into a wily, shrewd manipulator. Not satisfied with this revelation, you went on to explore U.S. presidential leadership in general. You crafted a grid for assessing leadership qualities.

Nothing in politics is more important than leadership, and you have given new life to that subject.

For your outstanding contributions to scholarship and public affairs, the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association is proud to award you its highest honor, the Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal.
TO
FRED I. GREENSTEIN
PH.D. 1960

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
ANALYST OF LEADERSHIP
DEMYSTIFIER OF EISENHOWER

FROM
YALE GRADUATE SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
5 OCTOBER 2010

Comment: Maybe “demystifier of Eisenhower” sounds weird, but that is exactly what Fred is best-known for. As president, Eisenhower seems to have thrown up a smokescreen clouding the way he operated. Fred went back to the sources and showed up what was really going on.