

THE FOLEY REPORT 2017

THE FOLEY INSTITUTE REPORT

The Thomas S. Foley Institute
for Public Policy and Public Service



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Established at Washington State University in 1995, the mission of the institute is to foster congressional studies, civic education, public service, and public policy research in a non-partisan, cross-disciplinary setting.

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Distinguished Professor in Government

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Civic Education and Public Civility

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Director's *Update*

Political Leadership in Polarized Times

This past June, Heather Foley held a fundraiser at her home in Washington, D.C. to benefit the institute (see story on page 5). Among the dignitaries attending were House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer. Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan was an honorary co-host of the reception, and several Republican members of Congress attended the event, including Representative Brad Wenstrup from Ohio's 2nd District, a Foley neighbor, who brought along his young son to splash in the backyard pool.

Despite the public's perception of a bitterly divided town, it is still true that many members of Congress socialize and enjoy close friendships across the partisan aisle in Washington. Nonetheless, partisan divisions are real and they keep our leaders from addressing pressing challenges that confront the country.

The morning after the reception, I awoke to the sound of ambulance sirens. Five people were shot by a deranged gunman as they practiced for the annual congressional baseball game in the nation's capital. Republican House Whip Steve Scalise was seriously injured, and wounds to others would have been even more serious had Representative Wenstrup, a former army surgeon, not been there to administer first aid.

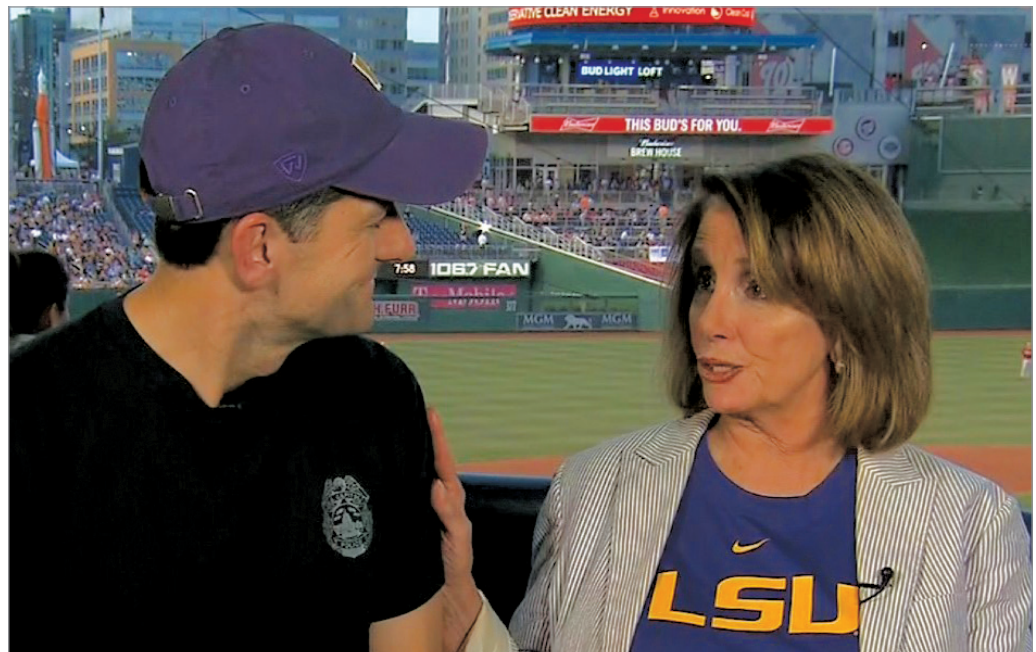
In the days that followed the violence, a rare moment of bipartisanship erupted in Washington, D.C. Leaders of both parties called for a return to civility, and Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi even sat down to joint television interviews to show they could be nice to each other.

Similar calls to change the tone of our political discourse came after the shooting of Arizona Congresswoman Gabby Giffords in 2011. Following that incident, Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton established a national center for civil discourse.

Such calls for greater civility are sensible. No doubt we should all be more civil in our political discussions. However, calls for greater civility are unlikely to succeed absent a more fundamental change in how we think about politics.



Cornell Clayton



Director's *Update* (continued)

Over the past decade the Foley Institute has hosted a series of conferences and research programs focused on political polarization and incivility. Here is what we know.

First, political incivility and violence are not new. The presidential election of 1800 was probably the nastiest in history, leading to a duel in which Aaron Burr shot and killed Alexander Hamilton. During the election of 1828, supporters of John Quincy Adams accused Andrew Jackson of adultery and murder, and Adams became so embittered that he refused to attend Jackson's inauguration. During the 1860s members of Congress physically assaulted one another on the floor of the Senate, and half a million Americans – two percent of the entire population died in a bloody civil war.

In the Gilded Age violent labor protests like the Haymarket riot led to deaths in American streets, and President McKinley was killed by an assassin's bullet. During the 1930s President Franklin Roosevelt was viscously attacked by opponents on both the political left and the right. And during the 1960s civil rights protesters were brutalized in the South, violent anti-Vietnam war demonstrations raged on college campuses, and three beloved leaders, John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King were assassinated.

It is hard to argue that politics today is less civil than during these previous periods.

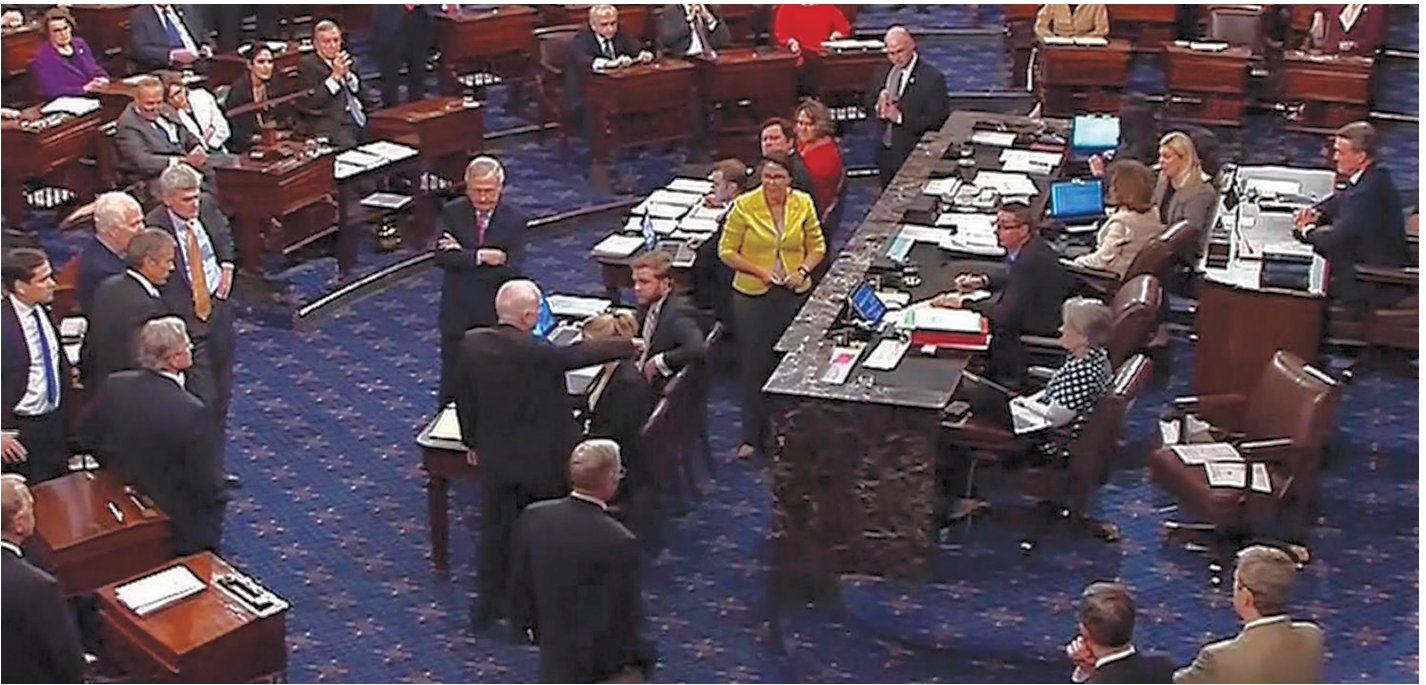
We also know that political incivility is a symptom rather than a cause of political divisions. Past periods of incivility were times when the nation was deeply polarized over issues like slavery, the inequalities resulting from industrialization, demographic changes brought on by rapid immigration, and major social upheavals in the wake of movements for racial and gender equality.

Today the nation is again divided, but it is a mistake to think of that division simply in terms of hardening partisanship and decay in civil discourse. Yes, our political parties have become more tribal in nature and our discourse more coarse and angry. But partisan polarization is the symptom of deeper substantive divides over policy. How should we respond to the economic transformations produced by globalization and technological innovation? What should we do about the disappearing middle class and the growing inequalities in wealth and opportunity in the country? How should we think about immigration in a country reliant on immigrant labor but concerned about the pace of demographic change?

These and other issues are not partisan creations but actual substantive challenges that confront Americans. They produce partisan polarization, not the other way around. Nor can they be solved by simply refraining from incendiary partisan rhetoric – although that would certainly help.



Director's Update (continued)



Rather than fixating on the style of our political discourse, Americans might try focusing more attention on building collaborative approaches to these substantive challenges we confront. The real problem today is not that political leaders don't like one another or use intemperate rhetoric, it's that too often they see politics as a Manichean struggle, a conflict between good and evil rather than as the art of compromise and finding common ground. Voters encourage this by viewing compromise as weakness and deriding candidates as "RINOs" or "establishment politicians" when they stray from ideological dogma.

In truth, the only principle that can sustain democracy is the principle of compromise and a commitment to the common good. Those who insist on ideological purity but then bemoan incivility in politics fail to understand its origins. If we want a more productive and a more civil form of politics we must see compromise as a virtue rather than a weakness, and reward those politicians who seek to find common ground rather than those who stubbornly insist on their ideological principles.

Such leadership is hard and it takes courage in polarized times when half the electorate feels the other side is not just wrong but doesn't play by the rules. It requires leaders to not only be civil to each other but to also empower the other side and give them a voice in policymaking – especially when they don't have to. It means not passing major legislation, like healthcare reform or overhauling the tax system, on purely partisan votes – something both parties have done in the past. It means adherence to institutional norms that empower the minority party, norms like the filibuster or not circumventing "regular procedure" by refusing to vote on presidential nominees or hold public hearings on major bills.

This type of political leadership is what John McCain called for during his celebrated speech to the Senate shortly after being diagnosed with brain cancer this past summer. McCain, a 25-year veteran in Congress, said that his most cherished and satisfying accomplishments were those that required him to work across the aisle and to compromise with those with whom he disagreed, sometimes deeply. He pledged not to vote for any major overhaul of healthcare unless it was the product of public hearings and bipartisan negotiation and compromise.

McCain's speech was met with a standing ovation from his colleagues. Unfortunately, within weeks, the Senate returned to a series of partisan votes aimed at overturning the Affordable Care Act, all of which failed. As he promised during his speech, McCain cast the crucial vote against repeal of the act because he said there had been no effort to return to regular order or to find a compromise.

While President Trump castigated McCain on Twitter, his vote was as an all too rare profile in courage. Whatever the correct policy regarding healthcare reform (or other major policies), the process for getting there is as important as the outcome.

A more civil political discourse would be nice, but it will only come if we change the way we think about the goal and process of democratic politics itself. Rather than joint television appearances or Twitter tirades, we should ask our leaders to commit to a politics of compromise and finding common ground.

Foley Institute *News*

Fundraiser in Washington D.C.



On June 13, Heather Foley hosted a fundraiser at her home in D.C. to benefit the institute and the Mansfield Foundation's Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Thomas S. Foley Legislative Exchange. The Mansfield Foundation's program was established to facilitate two exchanges a year between the U.S. Congress and the National Diet in Japan, focusing on the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

The Honorary Reception Committee consisted of Speaker of the House **Paul Ryan**, House Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, Senate Democratic Leader **Charles E. Schumer**, House Democratic Whip **Steny Hoyer**, Senator **Patty Murray**, Representative **Cathy McMorris Rodgers**, Representative **Derek Kilmer**, Representative **Dan Newhouse**, Representative **Suzan DelBene**, and Representative **Pramila Jayapal**.



Undergraduate Internships

Thanks to the generous support of donors each year, the Foley Institute is able to offer scholarships to our interns, including the Lance LeLoup Congressional Scholarship for internships in the U.S. Congress. Please contact us or visit us online at foley.wsu.edu if you would like to know more or are interested in contributing to our scholarship funds.

In Washington D.C. **Emily Grupp** interned in the office of U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D - WA) and **Harold Hyllseth** spent the spring semester in the office of U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal (D - WA).

In Seattle, **Friday Guilbert** interned with Washington state Democrats, and **Blair Burns** interned in the office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D - WA).



Damen Jeg shaking hands with Governor Jay Inslee.

The Legislative Internship Program at the Washington State Legislature has long been recognized as one of the leading programs in the country, offering around 75 paid internships during each legislative session.

This past year, eight WSU students were selected to participate in the program: **Jack Bridgewater, Rebecca Foote, Damen Jeg, Alba Navarro, Emma Pitts, Victor Rubio Rivera, Alexandra Wehinger, and David Woltjer.**



Alexandra Wehinger with WA Senator Karen Keiser.

During the 2016/17 academic year, **James Allsup** interned with the Whitman County Republican Central Committee, and **Leoma James** interned with the Whitman County Democrats, both during the election cycle.



Harold Hyllseth with U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal.

Meanwhile, in Pullman, **Bailee Syrek** interned for Student Legal Services on the WSU campus, **Nawal Scheck** interned as a friend and family coordinator for International Programs, and **Fadumo Ali** interned in the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication producing a documentary about Somaliland.

Other interns were **Nicholas Derrough**, who worked on the David Gill for Congress campaign in Bloomington, IL. **Jessica Do** interned for the Pullman City Supervisor, **Danielle Romero** performed a full-time internship at Schweitzer Engineering Labs in Pullman, and **Nicholas Streuli** was an intern with the Washington Department of Employment Security in Olympia, WA.



Victor Rubio Rivera with U.S. Senator Patty Murray

We were supported in our events by five interns this year. Our senior intern, **Kevin Schilling** graduated in May in history and political science. He has been accepted into a dual master's program at Columbia University and the London School of Economics and Politics.

Our other interns were **Samuel (Sam) Highsmith**, **Orla McAlinden**, **Eduardo Ramos**, and **Heidi Stallman**.



Left to right: Orla, Sam, our front office assistant Kathia, Kevin, and Heidi

Help an Undergraduate Scholar

Help the Foley Institute provide scholarships to support undergraduate internships.

Yes, I would like to support Foley public presentations, events, and student internships in public service:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other

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Please return this completed form to:

WSU Foundation, PO Box 641927,
Pullman WA 99164-1927

You can also make your gift online at give.wsu.edu.

Questions? Call 800-448-2978 or
email foundation@wsu.edu



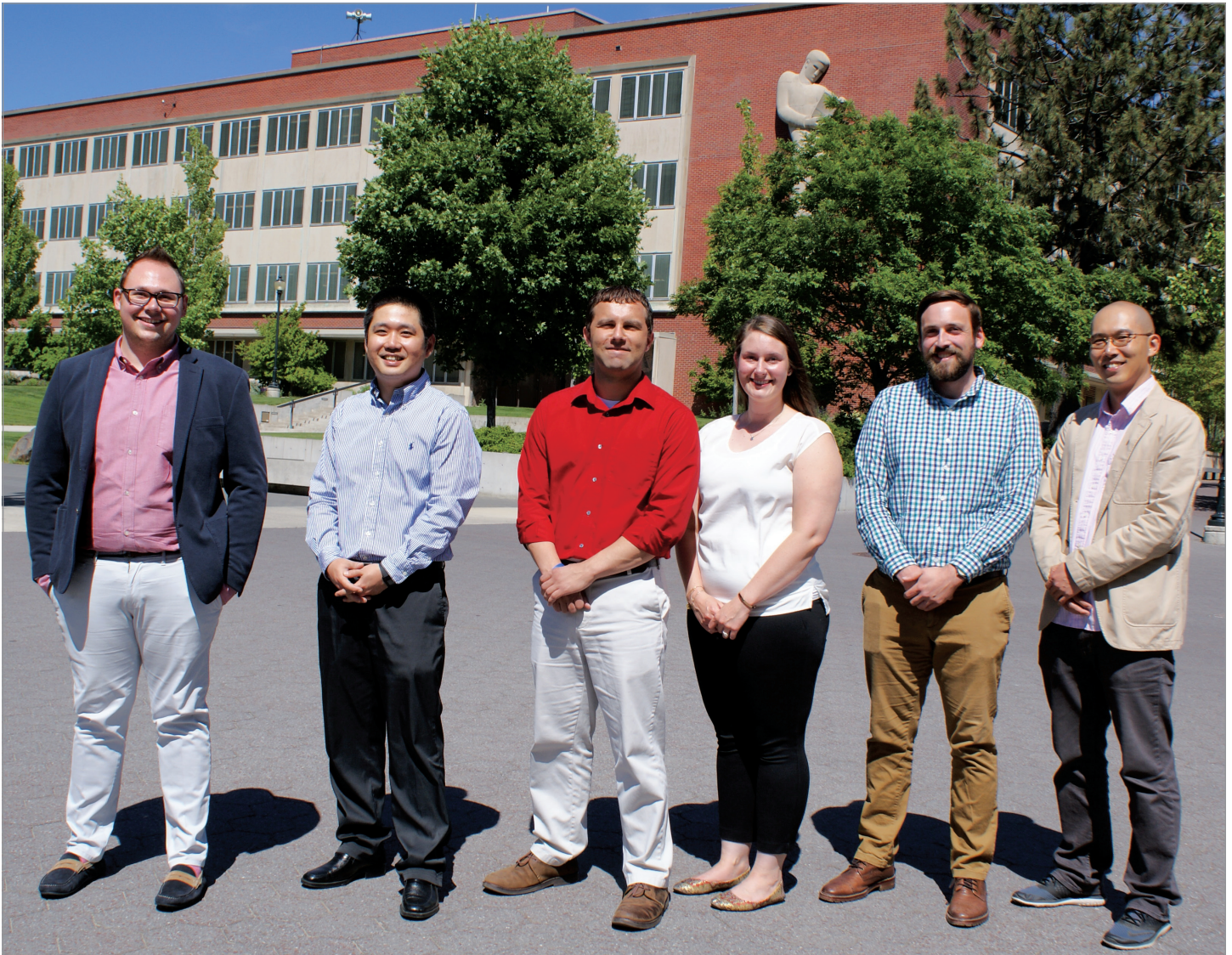
Thomas S. Foley Institute for
Public Policy & Public Service

College of Arts & Sciences
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Thank you!

Graduate *Fellowships*

Each year, the institute awards research fellowships to graduate students working on questions related to public policy. These fellowships are available thanks to the generosity of **Scott and Betty Lukins, John and Ardith Pierce, Alice O. Rice,** and the **Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Foundation.**



Pictured left to right: Miles Sari, Taewoo Kang, Matthias Baudinet, Kimberly Lackey, Daniel Mueller, Youngki Woo

This year we awarded eight summer fellowships:

Matthias Baudinet's (History) research examines issues and policies related to identity, ethnicity, and nationality in the French-German border region of Alsace-Lorraine, and specifically the ethnic cleansing authorized by the French government directly after the end of the First World War.

Rebecca Evans (School of Biological Sciences) is using her fellowship to work with park superintendents, rangers, and interpretive staff. Her work aims to provide accessible information to the public and National Park Service (NPS) staff on the detrimental effects of climate change and air quality.



Rebecca Evans

Taewoo Kang's (Political Science) research explores how the changing communication environment influences campaign strategy and the public's perception of candidates running for political office. He examines the effect of different campaign messaging, as well as what happens when a voter receives inconsistent messages from a campaign through multiple communication channels.

Kimberly Lackey's (School of Biological Sciences) work focuses on methods used to collect and preserve human milk samples in rural field conditions, and the subsequent analysis of such samples for their overall microbial community structure and *Mycobacterium leprae*, the causative agent of leprosy. Her doctoral work will culminate in a project designed to determine if *Mycobacterium leprae* is present in the milk of women with leprosy.

Daniel Mueller's (Political Science) work focuses on clarifying the mechanisms that lead to sustainability in aviation biofuels. His research seeks to inform our understanding of which community traits lead to sustainable outcomes in this area, and will provide decision makers with a tool to determine the communities best suited to site an aviation biofuel supply chain.

Matthew Newsom's (Anthropology) research focuses on the violent cultural memories associated with WWII and especially the conflicted cultural memory of Germans since the war. He is using his award to travel to Berlin to investigate the engagement of social scientists in public and political debates regarding city, state, and federal-level policies that address Germany's cultural self-understanding.

Miles Sari (Communication) examines how recent protests against speeches from conservative figures like Milo Yiannopolous, Charles Murray, and Ann Coulter raise questions about the state of democratic dialogue. His work investigates how conservative college students express their policy positions when they think they are in the minority, and the implications of perceived suppression of speech.

Youngki Woo (Criminal Justice) is utilizing his award to attend the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research workshop, held at the University of Michigan. This will enable him to expand the breadth and impact of his research on the role of cannabis and other intoxicants on fatal crashes in Washington state.



Matthew Newsom

American Politics | *The Trump Administration*

In the wake of the unprecedented nature of the 2016 presidential campaign and the surprise election of Donald Trump, the institute held a series of events examining the new administration.

President Trump and the Media

On February 6, the Foley Institute cohosted, with the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, our annual media and politics symposium.

Focusing on President Trump's relationship with the media, our panel of experts featured **Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha** of the University of North Texas and **Joseph Uscinski** of the University of Miami, and was moderated by WSU's **Porismita Borah**. Eshbaugh-Soha discussed trends in American perceptions of the media and how the public reactions to Donald Trump's nontraditional style was to Trump's advantage. Uscinski examined the notion of "fake news," addressing its manifestations and implications in recent political activity, particularly associated with President Trump.



Justice Confirmed



On March 20, the same day as the confirmation hearings began for President Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, the institute hosted a panel discussion about the implications of the appointment.

Mitch Pickerall, Northern Illinois University, discussed the past voting habits of the Senate towards Supreme Court nominees. He noted the changes in recent nominations and the growing partisan polarization in confirmation hearings.

Amanda Hollis-Brusky, Pomona College, focused on Gorsuch as a nominee. She discussed his jurisprudential philosophy and history of decisions on the court of appeals.

Michael Salamone, Washington State University, discussed the future of the Court with Justice Gorsuch and how it will differ from the alternate future had Clinton won the presidency.

Distinguished Lecture | *The Trump Administration*

Trump and the Changing Political Landscape in America

The 2016 Foley Distinguished Lecture was presented on February 1, by **Paul Pierson** (University of California at Berkeley). Pierson discussed recent changes in the Republican Party and the election of Donald Trump.

Pierson began his talk by suggesting that the 1994 election, when Speaker Foley was defeated, marked a significant shift in America's political landscape, which ultimately led to the election of a populist outsider in 2016. He discussed the "big slow-moving processes" over the past two decades that produced broader structural changes that ultimately allowed Trump to receive the Republican Party nomination.

Pierson acknowledged many factors played into Trump's victory, including economic changes, stagnating wages for workers, increasing inequality, demographic changes around "race and place" that create division in American society, and the transformation of the media and the new ways that people get their political information.

The main focus of his talk, however, was on the evolution of the Republican Party and its interaction with the structure of the American Constitution. With his co-author Jacob Hacker, Pierson noted that he had been an early adopter of the concept of asymmetrical polarization - that increased political polarization



and the rise of "scorched earth politics" was primarily due to changes in the Republican Party.

Pierson discussed how a constellation of groups and interests played a large role in the realignment of the Republican Party in particular. He suggested that the grouping of powerful business interests and right-wing media have combined with the U.S. presidential system to change the political environment. Prior to the 1990s, parties had been broader loose coalitions and weakly organized. This allowed for a wide range of political opinion and the ability to make deals across the partisan aisle. Today, however, parties no longer facilitate compromise as they have become more ideologically sorted and unified. Due to gerrymandering, many politicians are now in safe seats, and so have even less incentive to compromise.

He concluded his remarks by noting that President Trump is very much a product of a long-simmering anti-system rage within the Republican Party, but that his brand of populism nonetheless overlaps with a deeply entrenched establishment in that same party. Pierson suggested that changes in the Republican Party over the past three decades or so meant that it had become a machine that was well-designed to win elections, but that it was less clear what policies it stood for, and how it would govern if given complete control of Congress and the presidency.



*Paul Pierson is the John Gross Professor of Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley. His most recent book, co-authored with Jacob Hacker, is *American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper* (Simon & Schuster 2016). He is also a regular commentator on public affairs, and his writings have recently appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New Republic*.*



Coffee & Politics

The Trump Administration

Suing the President

On March 23 the Foley Institute hosted Washington State Attorney General **Bob Ferguson** who discussed his successful lawsuit against the Trump administration, which overturned the Trump administration's ban on individuals traveling from certain countries.

The attorney general's talk provided a rare insider look into the actions of his office in the immediate aftermath of the President's executive order.

He explained that one of the many factors contributing to his team's success in overturning the ban was the support of Washington's tech companies, including Amazon, in the form of impact reports published days after the ban took effect. He also noted that the President's campaign rhetoric provided critical context for the courts holding the ban unconstitutional.



Nationalism in Trump's America

Carol Swain, professor of political science and professor of law at Vanderbilt University, spoke on April 18.

Swain, who has published numerous books, including the award-winning **Black Faces, Black Interests: The Representation of African Americans in Congress**, and the Pulitzer Prize nominated **The New White Nationalism in America: Its Challenge to Integration**, spoke on the subject of "Patriotism vs Nationalism: When should we be concerned?"

Recalling the challenges in her own life, she suggested that many of the issues around race relations and white nationalism have become subject to identity politics, and that conversations on university campuses have often become hijacked by political correctness.



Trump's Foreign Policy

Tom Preston, professor in WSU's School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs, spoke at the institute on February 14 as part of the institute's series on the new Trump administration.

Preston provided a psychological profile of the president, and his style of leadership. Noting that the U.S. was in a unique position of having a president that had never had any previous policy or governmental experience, Preston suggested that evidence showed that Trump has a high belief in his ability to control events, coupled with low conceptual complexity and high level of distrust of others (among other traits).

Professor Preston's leadership profiling research suggested to him that Trump would surround himself with advisors picked on the basis of perceived loyalty rather than expertise, and this might lead, at least initially, to a sense of chaos in the administration.



The Trump Administration

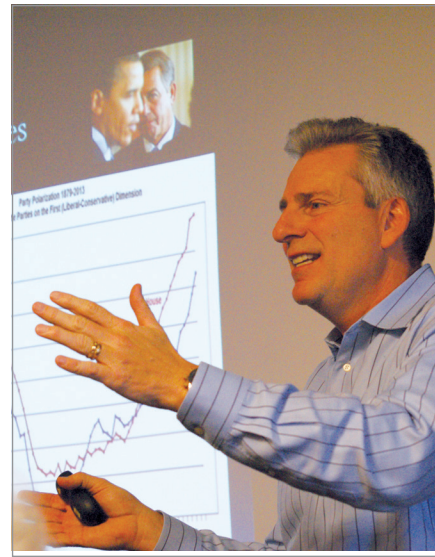
Anger and division in American politics

On November 1, Foley Distinguished Professor of Government **Travis Ridout** and Institute Director **Cornell Clayton** discussed the 2016 election campaign.



Ridout suggested that the polarization and nastiness in the modern political climate is often driven by media and spending from campaigns. But, he said, the actual level of incivility among elected officials and candidates themselves is not as bad as the media portrays. He also argued that angry conversations about cultural issues have served to distract citizens from rational conversations about economic and other issues.

Clayton placed the election into a broader historical context, noting how this election period has not been the only time where the U.S. has encountered extremely polarized, angry political discourse.



Conspiracy Theories



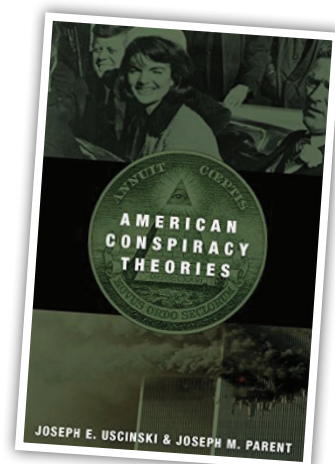
On February 6 **Joseph Uscinski** (University of Miami) spoke at the institute about political conspiracy theories.

Uscinski's research shows that liberals and conservatives are equally likely to believe in conspiracy theories, although they embrace different ones. Moreover, many Americans have what he calls a "paranoid disposition" that predisposes them to believe in political conspiracies.

Uscinski noted that outsider groups that fail to win power often use conspiracy theories as justification for their loss, which is why we rarely see political

winners embracing conspiracy theories. Importantly, Uscinski argued, conspiracy theories are usually adopted by those who feel they are on the losing end of major social and economic changes.

Joe Uscinski is the author of *The People's News: Media, Politics, and the Demands of Capitalism* (2014) and co-author of *American Conspiracy Theories* (2014) with Joseph Parent.



Politics in Eastern *Washington*

5th Congressional District Debate



On October 5, The Foley Institute welcomed incumbent Representative **Cathy McMorris Rodgers** (R-WA) and her Democratic challenger **Joe Pakootas** for a live debate televised by KWSU.

Several hundred people attended the event in the CUB Auditorium on the WSU Pullman campus, and many more watched on Northwest Public Television. The candidates discussed issues ranging from environmental policy to economic growth and changes in the state minimum wage. McMorris Rodgers went on to win re-election to Congress.

You can watch this debate again at <http://watch.nwptv.org/>.

9th District Legislators

On December 14, the delegation from Washington state's ninth legislative district, which includes WSU, visited the Foley Institute. Senate Majority Leader **Mark Schoesler** and Representative **Mary Dye** discussed the upcoming legislative session and the issues likely to be addressed. Representative **Joe Schmick** was unable to join them due to a prior commitment.

Earlier in the year, the institute also hosted Dye and her Democratic challenger, **Jennifer Goulet**, for a 9th District candidate forum on October 26.



Politics in *Washington*

Washington State Politics

On February 24, the institute hosted its seventh annual Olympia symposium in collaboration with the office of Washington's Secretary of State. Held on the capitol campus in Olympia, the symposium focused on recent developments in Washington state politics.

The panel featured four contributors to the forthcoming updated book sponsored by the institute: "***Governing the Evergreen State: Political Life in Washington***". The event was introduced by Washington's Secretary of State, **Kim Wyman**.

Maria Chávez, Pacific Lutheran University, discussed demographic and immigration-related changes in the state; **Todd Donovan**, Western Washington University, discussed the changing landscape of



L-R: Kim Wyman, Nicholas Lovrich, Maria Chávez, Todd Donovan, and Hans Zeigler

campaigns and elections in the state; **Nicholas Lovrich**, Washington State University, talked about the political culture in the Evergreen State; and Washington State Senator **Hans Zeigler** spoke about the legislature.

Carbon Tax Debate

Washington State Senator **Doug Ericksen**, carbon tax initiative sponsor **Yoram Bauman**, and **Jeff Johnson**, president of the Washington State Labor Council came to WSU on November 8 to discuss the implications of a proposed carbon tax in Washington state.

Bauman explained the benefits of the proposed carbon tax that was to appear on the November ballot, suggesting that the tax was revenue neutral and would cut other taxes on business and sales so that there would not be a negative impact on the economy. Johnson agreed there is a need for a carbon tax, but argued against this particular tax as not socially progressive enough. Ericksen, however, argued against carbon taxes and suggested that shifting costs to a gas tax and taking away refineries will not result in gains for Washington state.



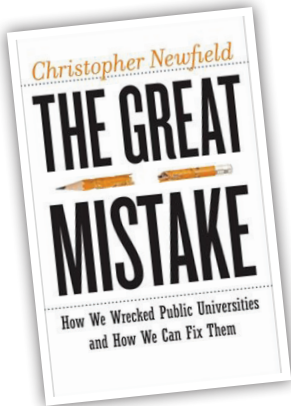
L-R: Jeff Gramlich, Yoram Bauman, Doug Ericksen, and Jeff Johnson

This event was held in collaboration with WSU's Howard D. and B. Phyllis Hoops Institute of Taxation Research and Policy, and moderated by its director, **Jeffrey Gramlich**.



Coffee & Politics

— politics in the U.S. —



The Great Mistake

On December 6, **Christopher Newfield**, professor of literature and American studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, spoke at the Foley Institute about changes to American public higher education. The adoption of business models, he argued, has led to students bearing the brunt of rising costs and decreased quality of higher education.

Newfield argued that universities have continued to institute destructive policies such as raising tuition, building too many facilities, and increasing class sizes. The consequences, he said, have been devastating to the middle class, and increased economic inequalities.



Constitutional law in Washington

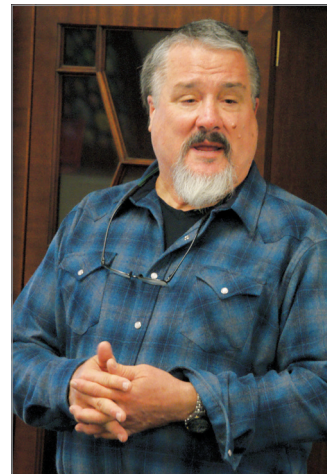


On November 18, University of Washington Professor of Law, **Hugh Spitzer**, visited the institute to discuss the state's Supreme Court, and recent developments in state constitutional law.

Spitzer is the foremost scholar on the state constitution. His talk focused on several recent

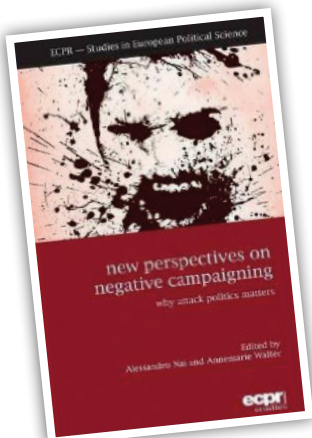
constitutional decisions that have shaped state politics, including decisions striking down tax limitation initiatives and requiring the state legislature to spend more on public education.

Climate change



On October 19, Professor of Political Science at Oregon State University **Edward P. Weber** spoke about the “wicked” problem of water, energy, and climate change. Focusing on environmental issues caused by population growth, increasing demand for energy, and climate change, he argued that society is creating an unstable trajectory for water consumption.

Weber explained an alternative cooperative approach to allocate water rights and reduce water demand, which, if adopted widely, could produce a more sustainable system.



Negative Advertising

Annemarie Walter visited the institute on October 18 to discuss the effects of negative attack ads on voter turnout and political skepticism, and also whether Europe is beginning to adopt American styles of negative campaigning.

Dr. Walter is a research fellow at the University of Nottingham, and is the co-author of *New Perspectives on Negative Campaigning: Why Attack Politics Matters* (2015) with Alessandro Nai.



Education in Washington

On September 16, Superintendent of Public Instruction **Randy Dorn** visited the Foley Institute to discuss education issues in Washington. In discussing school funding, Common Core, and charter schools, he said that the legislature should take responsibility for providing basic, equal education across the state.

A particular problem he emphasized was inequality in access to educational technology, an area often funded by local property tax levies. The state, he said, must play a greater role in providing equal access and funding in this area.

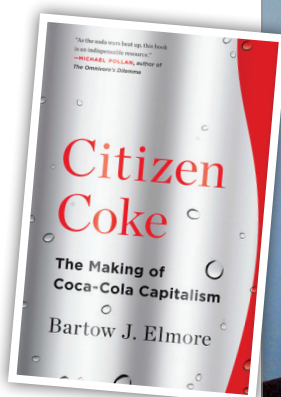


Universities as environmental watchdogs

On February 7, **Bartow (Bart) Elmore**, Ohio State University, argued that universities should take on a more assertive role as protectors of the environment.

A university's roots in local and regional communities he suggested, together with their environmental expertise, put them in a good position to take action around environmental issues.

After the event, Elmore signed copies of his book, ***Citizen Coke: The Making of Coca-Cola Capitalism***.



Social media and the Black Lives Matter movement

On January 26 the Foley Institute welcomed **Charlene Carruthers** to discuss the nature and future of the Movement for Black Lives. Social activism is an integral part of society today, and Carruthers provided insight into the motives and makeup of the Movement for Black Lives.

Carruthers discussed the development of the movement as a response to institutional racism in American society, and how future progress can be made.

Ms. Carruthers appeared in Pullman as part of WSU's Martin Luther King Day celebrations.



Coffee & Politics

politics in the U.S.

Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court

On November 4, the day after being chosen by her colleagues to be the next chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, **Mary Fairhurst** visited the institute for a public conversation with Foley Institute Director Cornell Clayton.

She discussed recent high profile cases heard by the court, including the McCleary decision regarding K-12 education funding, and responded to numerous questions.



The Evergreen State

On November 15, **Peter Goldmark**, commissioner of public lands for Washington, provided a view of some of the challenges facing Washington's natural resources and landscapes.

Goldmark, who retired this year, issued a call to action, urging communities, tribes, and individuals to join the effort to protect and preserve the state's natural heritage.

This event was presented in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources Sciences, and the School of the Environment.

The refugee crisis in Europe

On September 29, **Miro Haček**, professor of political science, and researcher **Simona Kukovič**, both from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, spoke at the institute on the politics surrounding the Syrian refugee crisis and the European Union's relationship with central European states.



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global politics

Women and prison



Christia Mercer, Gustave M. Berne professor of philosophy at Columbia University, spoke at the institute on March 30 on the subject of women and the prison industrial complex.

Drawing on her experience as the first professor to teach in prison as part of Columbia University's Justice-in-Education

Initiative, Mercer discussed the effectiveness of the program in reducing recidivism for women who are in prison.

Crazy Politics: Populism and Paranoia in America

On March 1, Institute Director **Cornell Clayton** talked about populism, conspiracy theories, and paranoia in American electoral politics.

Clayton discussed the rise of populist movements and politicians on both the political left and right. From the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street, to Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, populism is on the rise in American politics. Clayton explained how populism intersected with conspiratorial politics, political paranoia, and partisan polarization.



The French Presidential Election 2017



On April 25, two days after the first round of voting in the French presidential election, the institute welcomed **Amy Mazur** of the School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs at WSU, and **Steven Kale**, chair of WSU's history department to talk about the French election.

The election was won in the second round by centrist Emmanuel Macron, who defeated populist Marine Le Pen.



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Screening of *Tickling Giants*

On April 27, the Foley Institute and WSU's Student Entertainment Board hosted a free public screening of the documentary *Tickling Giants*, which details the career of the comedian Bassem Youssef, described as Egypt's Jon Stewart, and his satirical news show *Al Bernameg*.

The event was introduced by former CBS Middle East news correspondent **Lawrence Pintak** of the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

Current *events*

Race & policing panel discussion

Recent high profile shootings of unarmed suspects by the police have provoked widespread protests, including the Black Lives Matter movement. For their part, police officers often feel besieged as targets of camera phone crusaders and a 24-hour news cycle.

With this in mind, the Foley Institute organized a panel discussion on race and policing in front of a crowded CUB Auditorium on September 27. The experts included **Lorenzo Boyd**, president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; **Captain CP Taylor** of the Tacoma Police Department, **Phillip Tyler**, president of the Spokane chapter of the NAACP, and **Dale Willits** from the Department of Criminal Justice at Washington State University.



The refugee crisis

On April 20, the Foley Institute welcomed **Thorin Wright** (Arizona State University), **Shweeta Moorthy** (Coalition of Communities of Color, Portland) and **Ashly Townsen** (Washington State University) to discuss the international refugee crisis.

Focusing on the U.S., Townsen discussed misconceptions about the refugee vetting process, and explained the rigorous steps of authorization refugees must go through, leading to a relatively small percentage ever being admitted to the U.S.

Wright explained the international principle of refoulment. This principle is based upon the rights of refugees to life, freedom from persecution, and a right to personal security. Refoulment says that unless found unfit to receive asylum, refugees may not be expelled or deported from the country.

Moorthy provided a firsthand account of refugee behavior in the United States. She emphasized that refugees in general are not looking for trouble but a secure life. The majority are unhappy that they were forced from their home, and are simply seeking a normal life.



“How the Foley Institute *changed my life!*”

More than twenty years ago, participation in a Foley sponsored panel discussion led **Lorena O’English**, social sciences librarian at WSU Pullman, to a career-changing moment. She visited the institute to talk to us.



Daily Evergreen article from October 25, 1996 reporting on the panel discussion

In 1996, the institute (which had only been in existence since the previous year) held a forum on the role of the media in politics, and invited regional representatives in a number of fields to participate. At that time, Lorena worked with Project Vote Smart in Corvallis, OR, which is a research organization that collects and distributes information on candidates for public office in the United States.

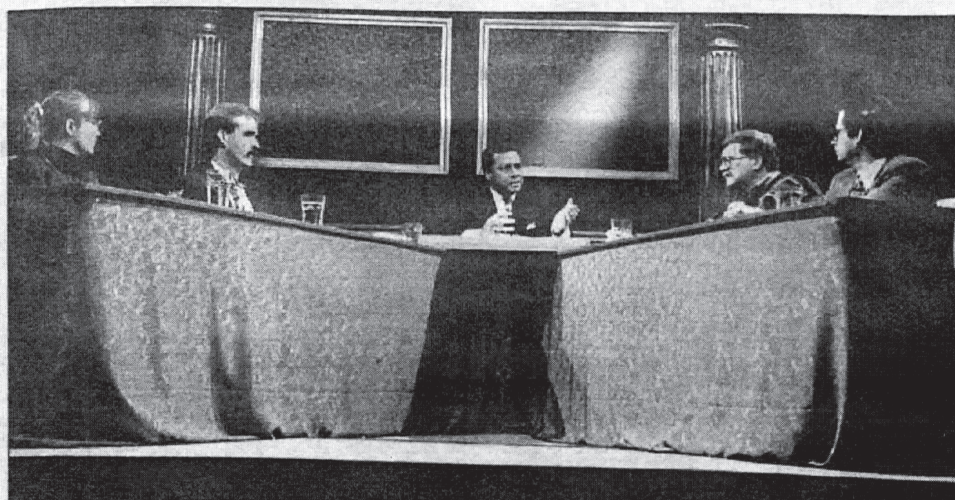
Asked to participate on the panel, Lorena remembers flying up to Pullman and enjoying views of the Palouse, but at that time was considering a career change. “I knew it was time to be doing something new, and was thinking about getting a Master’s in Public Policy...but I hadn’t done anything about it!”

As she recalls, her participation on the panel was low key until a question from the audience was directed at her about access to information. “It was a lightbulb moment – that my true passion was connecting people to information,” she says, “I went to town on it. I believe in transparency, open information, and turning it into knowledge that you can act upon.”

With that in mind, she applied and was accepted to library school at the University of Washington, and as she puts it, “started a new and extremely personally rewarding chapter in my life. And it was due to the Foley Institute!”

After finishing her degree she interviewed at WSU, and has been working with the WSU Libraries ever since, in political science, criminal justice, and additionally now in social sciences and government documents. She is also a regular audience member at the institute’s events!

Journalists need to give up ‘celebrity’ status



STAFF PHOTO BY NICOLE WALLA

“How to be a better consumer of political news,” part of the Foley Education Series, will be aired on KWSU throughout the next two weeks. Panelists include Chris Peck, Mark Trahan, Joel Connelly and Lorena English. Lester M. Smith and Fred Baker moderated the panel.

Local panel discusses media’s role in politics

BY ALICE THOMAS
The Daily Evergreen

The KWSU studios became the place to find answers in the quest to mobilize the public as a consumer of political news.

Joel Connelly, national correspondent for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer; Chris Peck, managing editor of the Spokesman-Review; Mark Trahan, editor and publisher of the Moscow-Pullman Daily News; and Lorena O’English, director for legislative services for project Vote Smart made up a panel of respondents to the question of where both the public and the media went wrong.

WSU’s Lester M. Smith, distinguished professor, and syndicated columnist Fred Baker moderated the panel.

Reporters have a tendency to become “stars,” Baker said. They become part of the story itself, and then the issue of gossip colors the public view.

There need to be fewer celebrity journalists; instead they should “send the message back out to the people,” Connelly said. The people want

See PANEL Page 6

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