



# BOARD OF ADVISORS WINTER MEETING DECEMBER 9TH, 2021

# INSPIRING THOUGHT. EMPOWERING ACTION.

IOP Director David Axelrod interviews Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to former Vice President Mike Pence

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# TO OUR BOARD OF ADVISORS

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Dear Members of the Board of Advisors:

After a full academic year of remote programming, we were thrilled to be back in person this fall, hosting events and welcoming students back to the IOP house.

Last year's efforts to find creative ways to keep our community together remotely were successful beyond all expectations. But there is no substitute for face-to-face interaction, as we have learned all over again.

Our students immediately jumped back into our program offerings this fall, coming to the house for seminars, signing up with our student groups, taking advantage of career advising, and attending our large public events in large numbers.

And we were particularly excited to welcome many new students into the IOP family, an opportunity we largely lost last year due to the pandemic. We kicked off the Fall Quarter with our Student Advisory Board barbecue attended by more than 400 students. Early in the year, we made targeted appeals to both conservative and graduate students and have seen progress in getting these historically underrepresented groups to engage with us more fully.

Later in the quarter, our highly engaged students helped us refine new programming ideas focused on identifying and combating large and looming threats to our democracy. Our UChiVotes students continue to organize across campus and help their peers register to vote.

And consistent with our values from the IOP's inception, we have continued our commitment to free expression. Through our Fellows seminars and events, we have exposed our students to a diverse array of speakers and viewpoints from across the political spectrum.

We also have used the last several months to focus inwardly as a staff. After onboarding several new staff members, including our new Executive Director Zeenat Rahman, we began thinking intentionally about how to more meaningfully center diversity, equity, and inclusion into our programming. We also launched a new website that better reflects our programming and crafted a new mission statement (which you will see on the next slide).

Overall, we have incredible momentum from a successful Fall Quarter that we hope to carry forward through the rest of the school year. We want to engage you more deeply in our work and have outlined some ways to do so at the end of this document.

These are sobering times. Yet the passion of our students for service and public engagement remains strong and gives us hope for the future.

Your commitment of time and thought is an invaluable and deeply appreciated contribution to our mission – a gift to IOP students and staff alike!

We look forward to Thursday's discussion.



# OUR MISSION

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**THE NONPARTISAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING IN OUR STUDENTS A PASSION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE AND ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN OUR DEMOCRACY.**

A student bumps fists with U.S. Congressman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, D-IL



# FALL QUARTER 2021 IN REVIEW

IOP Director David Axelrod speaks with UChicago President Paul Alivisatos

# FROM OUR STUDENTS

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***“There are countless ways to change the world for the better, and I’d happily spend a lifetime trying, testing, and bringing them to life.”***

**– Chaillé Biddle on how IOP programming has affected her**



# IOP FALL QUARTER NUMBERS AT A GLANCE:



- **700 unique students** attended Speaker Series events
- **936 students (307 unique)** participated in Pritzker Fellows seminars with an average of 26 students per seminar
- **200+ highly engaged students** participated in student leadership programs, civic dinners, voter registration efforts, and other Civic Engagement programming
- **241 students** were placed in paid summer 2021 internships with public service organizations across the country and around the world

Photo Captions: Clockwise from top left: Pritzker Fellows Ambassador Dannerys Peralta listens during a seminar; Conservative writer Bill Kristol poses with Aatman Vakil, head of UChicago College Republicans; Pritzker Fellow Russell Moore (second from left) with his student Ambassador team (left to right) Ramarko Bhattacharya, Alejandra Hardin, and Reilly O'Flaherty; and 2021 SAB Communications Co-Chair Julianna Rossi discusses IOP programming during SAB Barbecue



# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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- In summer 2021, **241 students** were placed in paid internships with public service organizations across the country and around the world including the *White House*, *U.S. Department of State*, *Members of Congress*, *Mexican Embassy to the U.S.*, *Hoover Institution*, *Hudson Institute*, and *ABC News*.
- This academic year, the IOP will support nearly **50 paid internships** in and around Chicago including with Chicago Public Schools, Invisible Institute, and other organizations.
- The IOP has resumed hosting in-person Alumni events, including our September alumni reception in Washington, D.C. Future in-person alumni receptions are in the works for the Winter and Spring quarters in Chicago and Washington, D.C.



Photo Caption: IOP Director David Axelrod talks with students about different IOP opportunities during Fall Quarter SAB Barbecue



# INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

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IOP Student Sahar Punjwani shares what her IOP internship meant to her in [this short video](#).

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## LAUNCH OF STUDENT COHORTS

Our identity-based student groups are actively recruiting members to join their cohorts for weekly programming during Winter Quarter. Collectively they will serve over 75 students and focus on sharpening our students' public service skills through workshops, panels, and other experiential activities.

## STUDENT-LED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

**Bridge Writing Workshop** is a weekly, student-led group where students facilitate creative writing workshops for incarcerated individuals at Cook County Jail.

**Bridging the Divide** is a partnership in collaboration with Eureka College and Arrupe College, bringing students together to participate in urban and rural immersion treks, observe political focus groups, and interact with a broad range of public servants working to find shared solutions to some of Illinois's most pressing challenges.

**The Gate** is an independent, undergraduate publication covering politics and policy on the local, national, and international levels. The Gate's content is developed, written, and published by students.

**Leaders of Color** is a student-run leadership development program for first- and second-year students of color. Through cohort-based training, workshops, and speakers, this initiative prepares students of color for leadership positions across campus and beyond.

**Spectrum** aims to connect and empower LGBTQ+ students with opportunities to expand their leadership skills and passion for public service. Through service opportunities, workshops, and events, Spectrum aims to heighten the visibility, acceptance, and leadership aptitude of UChicago's LGBTQ+ community.

**TechTeam** provides opportunities for students to develop capacity-building tools and digital media supporting the needs of local non-profit organizations. TechTeam members are trained in coding and digital strategy and act as technology consultants for public service clients.

**UChiVotes** is a student-run, staff-supported voter outreach initiative with the goal of increasing voter registration and voter turnout on UChicago's campus.

**W+** works to provide training, mentorship, and resources to women and people of underrepresented genders interested in public service.



Photo Caption: Students Isabella Hurtado, (left), poses with Sindu Soundararajan during The Fall Quarter 2021 Student Advisory Board Barbecue



# UChiVOTES

In 2020, UChicago's campus voting rate increased to 60%, a 9 point increase over the 2016 voting rate.

Student leaders are exploring expanding voter registration efforts into Chicago Public Schools.

Our student leaders continue to get recognition for their efforts to increase student voter registration and turnout. [In this video](#), this year's UChiVotes co-chairs discuss the work they do for voting accessibility with The New Voting Project.



Photo Captions: UChiVotes Voting Ambassadors pose during campuswide get-out-the-vote campaign



# FELLOWS SEMINARS

Fall Quarter 2021



# PRITZKER FELLOWS SEMINARS

## Fall Quarter 2021

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### **“The Politics of Hunger”**

**Catherine Bertini**, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme nominated by presidents Bush and Clinton, and **Ertharin Cousin**, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme nominated by President Obama, led a series of 8 seminars that explored the complex systems and thorny issues that shape the politics of domestic and international hunger. They examined the nature of the problem and practical solutions with experts from US government agencies, the UN, and local and international NGO's.

### **“Current State: Politics for '22, Polling & Today's GOP”**

**Tony Fabrizio**, chief pollster for President Donald Trump's 2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns led 4 seminars that were a data-driven and experience-laden deep dive into the Republican party of today, with a comparison to the past and prognostications for the future.

### **“The Chicago Story in Education: Lessons from the Field”**

**Janice Jackson**, former chief executive officer for Chicago Public Schools, led 8 seminars that examined public education in Chicago, the impact of COVID on public education, and the challenges that lie ahead. Jackson brought a variety of guests from Chicago and across the nation who explored policy formulation, implementation and reform within the context of the intersection of race and class.

### **“Mitch Landrieu seminars”**

**Mitch Landrieu**, former Mayor of New Orleans and founder of E Pluribus Unum, a nonprofit focused on advancing racial equity and social justice in the south led 4 seminars that examined climate change and disaster relief in the wake of his experience with Hurricanes Katrina and Ida, the nature of and solutions to gun violence with Arne Duncan and members of Chicago CRED, and reckoning with race and the national narrative with Clint Smith.

### **“Evangelical Religion in American Politics & Culture”**

**Russell Moore**, public theologian and director of the Public Theology Project at Christianity Today looked at the complicated relationship between American evangelicals and the current political and cultural landscape. His diverse guests examined topics such as science, race, gender, secularization, and nationalism within American evangelical communities.

### **“Afghanistan's Journey Since 9/11 and the Rise of a Free Press”**

**Lotfullah Najafizada**, Afghan journalist and director of TOLONews, Afghanistan's first 24-hour news and current affairs television channel reviewed the journey of the Afghan people since 9/11. His guests included a former Defense minister, the former Afghan Ambassador to the US, an exiled pop star and another leading Afghan journalist, who all gave riveting accounts of their lives since the fall of Kabul, and provided insights into why the country fell so quickly and what the Taliban may face in their return to power.

# SPEAKER SERIES

The Speaker Series hosted 30 public events during the Fall Quarter ranging from large forums with hundreds in attendance to intimate, seminar-style events offering students up-close access to elected officials, journalists, and a four-star general.

Students benefitted from hearing from Marc Short, former chief of staff to former Vice President Mike Pence; Michael J. Morell, former Deputy Director of the CIA; *New York Times* journalist Astead Herndon; and former Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie.



Photo Caption: U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff, D-CA, (left), and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, D-IL talk during a Speaker Series event



# SPEAKER SERIES EVENTS

## Fall Quarter 2021

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### [Democracy and the Battle Over Voting Rights](#)

Ron Brownstein, Astead Herndon, Sean Morales-Doyle, Nsé Ufot

### [How 9/11 Changed America and the World](#)

Michael Morell, Evan Osnos, Farah Pandith, Ben Rhodes

### **Lunch & Learn: So, You Want to Work on a Campaign**

Lauren Baer, Zeenat Rahman

### [Washington Post reporter Robert Costa](#)

David Axelrod, Robert Costa

### [Congressman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia \(D-IL\)](#)

Jesús “Chuy” García, Araceli Gomez-Aldana

### [Unpacking Gun Violence in Chicago](#)

Roseanna Ander, Robin Kelly, Ed Sullivan, Annie Sweeney

### [Faith & Democracy: The Role of Religion in American Politics](#)

Brie Loskota, Rachel Mikva, Russell Moore, Asma Uddin

### [Congressman Hakeem Jeffries \(D-NY\)](#)

David Axelrod, Hakeem Jeffries

### [Drawing Districts: It’s Not Just for the Hunger Games](#)

Kelly Burton, Adam Kincaid, Ally Mutnick, David Wasserman

### [America’s Pivot: Afghanistan to East Asia](#)

David Axelrod, Lotfullah Najafizada, David Sanger

### [Congressman Adam Schiff \(D-CA\) & Senator Tammy Duckworth \(D-IL\)](#)

Tammy Duckworth, Adam Schiff

### [Is the Democratic Party in Disarray?](#)

Natasha Korecki, Mitch Landrieu, Faiz Shakir

### [Permanent Emergency: Gov. Jay Inslee on Fighting Climate Change](#)

Amy Harder, Jay Inslee

### [A Conversation with UChicago President Paul Alivisatos](#)

David Axelrod, Paul Alivisatos

### [Speaker McCarthy? Looking Ahead to the 2022 Midterms](#)

John Anzalone, Tony Fabrizio, Karen Tumulty

### [Autism and Disabilities in America: A reporter’s first-hand perspective](#)

Tim Alberta, Eric Garcia



IOP Executive Director Zeenat Rahman poses with former State Department Deputy Chief of Staff Huma Abedin and first-year Harris Public Policy School graduate student Tara Farwana

### [Progressive Politics with Rep. Pramila Jayapal](#)

David Axelrod, Pramila Jayapal

### [Huma Abedin on Her Memoir “BOTH/AND: A Life in Many Worlds”](#)

Huma Abedin, Zeenat Rahman

### [Eyewitness to History: Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to VP Pence](#)

David Axelrod, Marc Short

### [Playbook for Republicans: Former Gov. Chris Christie \(R-NJ\)](#)

David Axelrod, Chris Christie

### [The Rising Power of the Asian American Community in Politics](#)

Paul Luu, Stephanie Murphy, Sonal Shah, Zeenat Rahman

### [“There is Nothing for You Here” - Fiona Hill in conversation with NPR’s Mary Louise Kelly](#)

### [General Stanley McChrystal on Risk and Challenges of Leadership](#)

Stanley McChrystal, David Axelrod

# FROM OUR STUDENTS

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***“I am a first-year MPP student at the Harris School of Public Policy, and I have found that the Institute of Politics programming is the perfect real-world application and supplement to my coursework. The diversity, rigor, and caliber of (programming) at the IOP has given me insight into a broad set of issues and experiences I had never thought about previously and heightened my interest in areas that I already had some exposure.”***

**- Tara Farwana, MPP ‘23 on her experiences with the IOP**



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL QUARTER







# LOOKING FORWARD

IOP Director David Axelrod, (left), speaks with Afghan Journalist and IOP Pritzker Fellow Lotfullah Najafizada, (center) and New York Times White House and national security correspondent David Sanger

# UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

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## DISINFORMATION AND THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACY

The Institute of Politics and *The Atlantic* will host a two-day conference in April bringing together leading public thinkers, political leaders, technologists, journalists, and activists from the U.S and abroad to critically engage on issues around disinformation's impact on democracy. Touching on issues of free speech, radicalization, polarization, and business incentives online, this event will bring together diverse perspectives that will culminate in deep conversations about the policy, technical, and social solutions we need now.

## STUDENT EVENT COMMITTEES

We are relaunching our two student-run event committees. Chicago Style will host a series of events and treks delving deeply into Chicago and Illinois politics. Past speakers have included prominent local elected officials, policymakers, political operatives, journalists, and community organizers. The International Policy Program series gives students opportunities to invite experts in the Chicago area to discuss hot-button topics around the world. During the 2019-2020 school year, IPP hosted events on topics including COVID-19 and U.S.-Iran relations.

## BORDERLANDS SPRING BREAK TREK

Over spring break the Civic Engagement and Fellows program will take 14 students to the US-Mexico border to explore migration, immigration, and economic development. We are particularly excited to interact with a few former Pritzker Fellows who have expertise in these areas and are based in the border region.

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## IDEATHON

TechTeam is hosting its second Ideathon (but the first one in person), a student-led hackathon event aimed at bringing students together to address the most pressing issues at the intersection of technology and society. During this year's event, students will focus their ideas on disinformation and sustainability.



# WINTER QUARTER

## PRITZKER FELLOWS

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- This Winter Quarter, the IOP will welcome these Pritzker Fellows to campus (*Not yet public*)
- Mark Campbell, GOP strategist, campaign manager for Glenn Youngkin
- Carmen Yulín Cruz, former Mayor of San Juan
- Joe Ferguson, former Inspector General of Chicago
- Anna Galland, organizer, strategist, former Executive Director of Move On
- Sarah Smarsh, journalist, and author of “Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country in the World”
- Lotfullah Najafizada, Director of TOLONews, Afghanistan’s only 24-hour news channel will continue his seminar series started during the Fall Quarter

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Photo Caption: IOP Pritzker Fellow Lotfullah Najafizada, head of TOLONews speaks during a Fall Quarter 2021 Fellows Seminar





# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO **INSTITUTE OF POLITICS**

POLITICO Journalist Natasha Korecki (left) moderates a discussion between former Mayor of New Orleans Mitch Landrieu (center) and Democratic Political Advisor Faiz Shakir