Lori Lightfoot, then-mayoral candidate for Chicago, at the IOP’s mayoral run-off forum on crime
“You have to engage and pay attention. And when that happens, you’re not going to immediately bridge all those divides, there are very real differences, these are hard issues a lot of times and people genuinely disagree. But at minimum you will establish -- you will be contributing to the goodwill and the habits of the heart that are required for our democracy to continue to function. And that is no small thing. And what I am constantly amazed by is how much talent there is everywhere -- young people who are smart, and driven, and innovative and idealistic. And are absolutely intent on changing the world for the better.” - Barack Obama, November 2018
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO INSTITUTE OF POLITICS
Annual Board of Advisors Meeting
2018-2019 Academic Year

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Inspiring and cultivating the next generation of political and public service leaders at the University of Chicago.

The IOP is one of only a few such institutes in American higher education: a nonpartisan, extracurricular department that complements the academic offerings at the University of Chicago. Since opening our doors in January 2013, the IOP has sought to inspire students to engage in politics and public service via its four core program areas:

› The Speaker Series, which strengthens our political discourse by hosting over 200 speakers each year for free events that are open to the public and reflect a diverse array of ideas and perspectives
› The Pritzker Fellows Program, which brings to campus about 15-20 visiting and resident Fellows each year to hold off-the-record seminars and office hours with students
› The Career Development Program offers over 260 fully-funded internships worldwide each year, attracting over 700 unique applicants
› The Civic Engagement Program, which gives students the opportunity to get hands-on experience leading projects in the Hyde Park community, including Women in Public Service Program, Leaders of Color, TechTeam, Chicago Peace Corps, college access initiative LegUp, and the University of Chicago’s political review The Gate

The IOP also fulfills its mission by producing the popular podcast “The Axe Files,” with host David Axelrod interviewing key figures in politics and public service. The podcast is now a TV show airing monthly on CNN, vastly increasing the IOP’s brand recognition around the world.

This year approximately 2,800 students participated in IOP programming, with nearly 700 of them being highly engaged. As the IOP wraps up its sixth full academic year on campus, we are now starting to see the ultimate impact of our work: in two recent surveys of alumni who engaged with the IOP, 70 percent of those who responded are currently in jobs in politics, public service, or journalism.

Perhaps more this year than any other year, the IOP embarked on a series of special projects that span various program areas. In the fall, the IOP launched UChiVotes, a student-led, staff-supported, nonpartisan voter engagement initiative to boost voter engagement in the 2018 midterm elections. UChicago was proud to secure the #1 spot among college campuses in TurboVote’s national voter registration rankings. In the winter, ChiElect helped students engage with the Chicago municipal elections, from campaign fairs to treks to a March forum featuring the two candidates in the mayoral runoff. In the spring, the 2020 Campaign Journalism Conference – a partnership with the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard – hosted 250 journalists for a two-day event at Google headquarters in Chicago to prepare them to cover the upcoming presidential election. In both the winter and spring, the IOP launched its second-ever Iowa Project, a program to get students a front-row seat for the Iowa caucuses; this year over 60 students will participate in the program, which started with a week of Fellows seminars in March, a series of campaign bootcamps featuring four Iowa experts, a trip to Des Moines in May, and will now culminate with summer internships for the students on presidential campaigns in Iowa or with news outlets covering the race, such as ABC News, CBS, CNN, FOX, NBC, and others.

We are now seeing potent demand for our work. In no small part due to the IOP, the number of students attending the University of Chicago intending to major in politics and policy-related field doubled from 2012 to 2018. As we improve our programs and seek to increase student engagement, we want to thank all of you for all your work in helping the IOP to date and exemplifying the IOP’s mission in all you do.
In the summer of 2018, the IOP decided to launch a voter engagement effort to boost the University of Chicago’s anemic registration and turnout numbers, 58% and 19% respectively in the 2014 midterm elections. In consultation with University leadership and the IOP’s student community, the IOP launched a student-led, staff-supported effort called UChiVotes in August 2018 with the goal of increasing registration to 70 percent and turnout to 40 percent in the 2018 midterm elections. UChiVotes would go on to lead the University of Chicago to the #1 spot in TurboVote’s national voter registration rankings as of Election Day 2018, ahead of schools such as Harvard and the University of Michigan.

The work of UChiVotes to make the University of Chicago a national leader in voter engagement began before students returned to campus in September. The IOP worked all summer with University partners to lay the groundwork for a first-of-its-kind, non-partisan voter education initiative. On the staff side, the IOP’s Civic Engagement and Communications teams led the program. On the student side, the IOP enlisted a core group of around 20 students who wanted to dedicate their time to this project. In September and October, the IOP held training sessions for “Voting Ambassadors” to become educated about the voter registration process; in all, over 100 students became Voting Ambassadors to help spread UChiVotes to all corners of campus. During orientation, students tabled across campus, helping their peers register to vote. The IOP worked with the University Registrar to build voter registration into the course sign-up process. Students organized a campus-wide “Pledge to Vote” competition, ultimately getting over 1,000 students to submit pledges. When all was said and done, around 5,000 students at the University signed up to TurboVote, putting the school at the top of TurboVote’s rankings as of Election Day with 80% of undergrads registered and a whopping 17 percent lead over the second-placed school.

“The goal was ambitious and exciting and served to unite us behind a serious mission we knew we could accomplish. We wanted to make our voices heard, and we wanted to change the voting culture at UChicago. At the end of the day, I’m proud to say we did both.”

– Andrew Mamo, AB ’18
A large component of UChiVotes’ success was its communications push. UChiVotes launched a website, started Facebook and Instagram accounts, and filmed voter engagement videos with the likes of Joe Biden, Khizr Khan, and even the “Dancing with the Stars” cast. The student-driven, organic element of the UChiVotes push was exemplified by one student – on his own – deciding to distribute over 1,600 goodie bags to dorms across campus to encourage voting.

For the first time ever, the University of Chicago hosted an on-campus polling place from Oct. 31-Nov, 2. Working with the UChicago Democracy Initiative, UChiVotes helped a total of 1,039 people vote early in the midterm elections at the Reynolds Club polling site. Staff and students held a voting fair across the street from the polling place, with food, games, and activities bringing together a wide range of students over the course of the three-day early voting site.

The success of the UChiVotes effort attracted local and national media attention. The program received coverage in outlets such as USA Today, The Economist, Chicago Sun-Times, Univision, and NBC5 Chicago. TurboVote highlighted the UChiVotes program as a model for other schools to follow in the future.

Final campus-by-campus voter turnout numbers will not be released until summer 2019. Still, it is clear from the success of the voter registration effort that UChiVotes has demonstrated its viability as a student-led, non-partisan program. After the midterm elections, UChiVotes continued to grow, expanding its website and boosting voter engagement in the Chicago municipal elections in February and April. Moving forward, UChiVotes will be a part of the IOP’s Civic Engagement program, under the leadership of Purvi Patel, and plans to ratchet up its efforts in advance of next year’s presidential elections.

“No one knows the student body and its needs better than other students, so we were able to employ strategies specific to our campus. Giving out free stamps and envelopes in particular was a big step because there aren’t many places on campus where students can buy stamps—it’s common to see friends asking around for stamps to mail letters to friends and family. UChiVotes helped alleviate that roadblock.”

- Dylan Wells, AB ’19
The 2019 Chicago elections were historic: 14 mayoral candidates ran in a race that had no incumbent for only the second time in nearly 30 years; aldermanic races were energized by promises of change and specters of scandal; and there was a hotly contested treasurer’s race. The IOP’s 2019 Chicago Elections Project (ChiElect) worked across all program areas to encourage the University of Chicago community to engage with this election. The IOP hosted a series of public and student-only events that illuminated Chicago’s rich political landscape and explored the key issues and candidates that will shape the City’s future. In addition, the 2019 Chicago elections offered our students the opportunity to bolster their civic engagement and political experience by jumping into local races right in their backyard. The IOP facilitated opportunities for students to volunteer on campaigns for Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, or Aldermen, as well as participate through non-campaign political work and robust local reporting.

ChiElect kicked into high gear in January and February 2019. IOP Pritzker Fellow Laura Washington, Chicago Sun-Times columnist and political analyst for ABC7, was our expert guide to the crucial upcoming municipal elections. She began with a preview of issues to watch during the campaign, and then each week, she hosted one or two seminars featuring students-only, on-the-record conversations with nine of the city’s mayoral candidates: Paul Vallas, Lori Lightfoot, Willie Wilson, Gery Chico, Bob Fioretti, Susana Mendoza, Amara Enyia, Jerry Joyce, and Neal Sales-Griffin. All of the candidates were invited to speak. These intimate conversations, organized by the IOP Speaker Series team, offered students a unique opportunity to ask questions of each candidate, and dive deeper into their vision for the city.

The IOP Civic Engagement team led two treks for students to visit the WBEZ South Side Bureau and West Side Bureau, where they spoke with reporters Natalie Moore and Chip Mitchell about how the issues and communities they covered would shape the 2019 Chicago elections. Natalie’s conversation centered around how race and class shape the everyday challenges faced by South Side Chicagoans, while Chip’s conversation emphasized the salience of police accountability and gun violence to West Side communities.
On the student side: UChiVotes, the IOP’s student-led voter engagement coalition, built a one-stop-shop website to inform the student body about Chicago’s municipal government structure, where and how to vote, and the schedule for the general and runoff elections. They also led “Get Out the Vote” efforts, including two trips to the early voting polls. The Gate, the IOP’s undergraduate political publication, published a voter guide that outlined the candidates that would appear on the ballots of University of Chicago campus residents.

The general elections on February 26 yielded two mayoral candidates for the April runoff: former federal prosecutor and Chicago Police Board President Lori Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. On March 13, the IOP, in partnership with the university’s Crime Lab and Harris School of Public Policy, hosted a mayoral candidate’s forum with Lightfoot and Preckwinkle devoted solely to the crucial issue of crime and violence. With community leaders and residents in the audience, a thoughtful panel of experts probed the candidates on their strategies for tackling this challenge.

By the time the IOP hosted its Election Night Watch Party for the municipal runoffs on April 2, University of Chicago students had developed a deeper understanding of Chicago politics and local government.

As Lori Lightfoot makes history as Chicago’s new mayor, and as the nation increasingly turns its attention to cities as centers of political leadership, the IOP will continue to encourage students to engage with politics in our local community.

ChiElect was a unique cross-programmatic collaboration for the IOP; the Speaker Series, Fellows, Career Development, and Civic Engagement Programs all contributed to its success.

“I learned an incredible amount about Chicago politics listening to candidates speak, both through the issues they chose to highlight and how they often responded to one another. I learned more specifically about the challenges Chicago faces. However, I am hopeful about Chicago’s future. As an outsider, the image we typically get about Chicago is dismal. It’s all too easy to write Chicago off as a city doomed to a state of permanent decline and decay. Every candidate I heard speak convinced me otherwise. Learning about the issues destroyed the mainstream narrative that I once adopted and convinced me that even the most dire problems can be solved.” – Drew Hallowell, AB ’22
One issue of particular importance to the health of our democracy in this moment is the country’s growing political and geographic divides. Now more than ever, communities nationwide are islands of rural red and urban blue, with little dialogue or interaction between them. While disagreement in American politics is not uncommon, the utter lack of understanding between urban and rural communities – and the resulting dangerous caricatures each holds of the other – is alarming. It poisons and paralyzes our politics, and calls for our urgent attention. As we look towards the upcoming 2020 election cycle and beyond, the IOP is asking: How can we equip urban and rural students to gain a better understanding of one another, have productive conversations across difference, and find shared solutions to the challenges that our communities are facing?

Through the IOP’s Bridging the Divide: A Public Service Leadership Program, UChicago students build the skills and perspectives to carry out this divide-bridging work. Bridging the Divide first launched in January 2018 as a partnership between the IOP and Eureka College, a private Christian college in central Illinois. In 2019, Bridging the Divide added a third partner, Arrupe College, a two-year community college that serves a diverse, Chicago-based population, many of whom are the first in their family to pursue higher education. This year, the immersive program brought together 27 undergrads from the three schools to address urban and rural divisions around three topics: the economy, workforce development, and immigration. During visits to Chicago, Central Illinois, and Springfield, students spoke with elected officials and residents about how each issue impacted their community.

In Chicago, students kicked off the weekend by observing a focus group of 2016 Clinton voters conducted by David Binder Research. Later, they met with local residents and leaders from the Metropolitan Planning Council, the Mayor’s Office, and City Colleges of Chicago to gain insight into how stakeholders are addressing the city’s economic and workforce development challenges. Finally, they discussed how to make progress on immigration reform with former Congressman Luis Gutierrez, the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, and The Resurrection Project.

In Eureka and Peoria, students observed a similar focus group with 2016 Trump voters, then visited two faith-based non-profits to understand how urban and rural downstate communities are tackling poverty. They visited an innovative career and technical school, spoke with the mayor of Bloomington, and learned about two small rural towns addressing the challenges and opportunities brought about by a growing immigrant population.
For their final meeting in Springfield, students focused on applying the lessons from their Chicago and Eureka visits to policymaking and legislation. They spoke with state legislators, a gubernatorial advisor, a lobbyist, and a journalist to deepen their understanding of state-level politics and policy. Throughout the visit, students were asked to reflect: How do political divides limit the ability of elected officials from rural and urban areas to work together, compromise, and solve problems? How can those barriers be broken? And what can young people do to help?

Students left Bridging the Divide with a deeper understanding of concerns of Illinois voters across wide-ranging geographies and how geography drives voters’ political attitudes. They developed strong relationships with peers from very different geographic, political, racial, and economic backgrounds. Finally, they identified opportunities to apply this divide-bridging work in their personal, academic, and professional lives moving forward. Some examples of students’ follow-up plans include: volunteering at organizations they learned about through Bridging the Divide, pursuing internships with legislators and organizations that are actively working across partisan and geographic divides, and developing innovative approaches to help their respective communities gain skills in media literacy and exposure to different perspectives. The IOP also facilitated opportunities for students to continue on their BTD journey, which included paid internships with some of the Chicago and Peoria organizations that they met throughout the program.

Moving forward, the IOP aims to work with higher education institutions across the country to develop their own Bridging the Divide programs. If our country is to make progress on the stark urban-rural divides that have paralyzed our politics, we need a network of colleges and universities doing their part to close those divides. We need to equip young leaders around the country with skills and perspectives that will help them understand one another, have productive conversations across difference, and seek shared solutions to the challenges faced by every community.

“Bridging the Divide turned out to be so much more than a dialogue between urban and rural residents. Certainly that dialogue was crucial and important, but we also had the opportunity to learn from politicians, journalists, researchers, activists, lobbyists, educators and community leaders about practical, real-world solutions to political issues in both urban and rural communities. The first step of constructive conversation is for all parties to have some shared understanding of what exactly the issues are. Bridging the Divide helped me realize how important that first step is and allowed me to take it. Bridging the Divide is so important because it forces people to step out of communities they feel comfortable, learn about how political issues play out on the ground, and have the difficult conversations necessary for real change.” – Allegra Hatem, AB ’22
In early April, the IOP - in partnership with the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard - held its second-ever Campaign Journalism Conference, an effort to help prepare reporters to cover next year's presidential elections.

This year's conference attracted over 250 attendees from a wide variety of local and national news outlets. Journalists from CNN, FOX, The New York Times, the Associated Press, and Axios came to the conference, while ABC News and CBS News sent their entire campaign embed teams. Over the course of two days at Google headquarters in Chicago, these journalists heard from 50 speakers, including Jeff Zeleny, Sam Feist, Athena Jones, Ben Smith, Jen Psaki, Monica Davey, Jonathan Martin, Amy Walter, Julianna Goldman, Peter Hamby, and Margaret Sullivan.

These speakers reflected on the direction that political reporting has taken since 2016 and urged a course correction in certain areas, such as making sure journalists aren’t slavishly covering every utterance on Twitter at the expense of a deeper understanding of what voters really believe. The conference looked at how best to employ a more forward-looking, responsive type of coverage that is able to pivot and adapt to fast-changing narratives. Above all else, the conference proved user-friendly for reporters, equipping them with all the tools they need to cover the campaign ahead.

In only its second iteration, the conference has already become an established part of the campaign cycle. As conference speaker Ron Brownstein noted on Twitter, it has become “a new tradition.” News outlets are even planning their embed training and announcements around the conference: ABC hosted its embeds in New York for two days before the conference and then notified embeds of their campaign assignments minutes after the conference ended.

With the IOP's Matt Jaffe and Christine Hurley leading the planning from the IOP side, the assistance of Betsy Fischer Martin who helped the extensive booking efforts, outstanding work from the Nieman Foundation and Google, and generous support from the Joyce and McCormick foundations, the conference was a massive success that was a significant improvement on the 2015 event.

“This conference was everything I've been looking for in a conference ahead of the 2020 elections. The info was so useful, especially to young reporters.”

– Caitlin Yilek, Washington Examiner
PANELS AND SPEAKERS

Reimagining Election Coverage
A broad overview of what the next election will look like and how best to learn from the mistakes of 2016

Managing the Moment
How experienced news directors view the election and what they want to see from reporters in the field
Sam Feist of CNN, Margaret Talev of Bloomberg (moderator), Ben Smith of BuzzFeed, and Amanda Terkel, the Washington Bureau Chief for HuffPost

Primary Primer
A look at the primary calendar, how the process works, what to know about the delegate selection system, and how caucuses are run
Jeff Berman, former national director of delegate operations for Obama ‘08, and Julie Pace of the Associated Press (moderator)

The First Four: A Primer on Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada
A discussion about the importance of the four early states, what has changed there since 2016, and what reporters should look for
Former Iowa GOP chair Matt Strawn, former Iowa Democratic Party chair Sue Dvorsky, former co-chair of Clinton New Hampshire campaign Terry Shumaker, Athena Jones of CNN (moderator), Jon Ralston of the Nevada Independent, and former SC Gov. Jim Hodges

Breakout sessions:
Three separate sessions for attendees to choose from, ranging from a look at campaign finance to the basics of being a campaign embed to how reporters can use social media and not succumb to pitfalls along the way

Money:
Ken Vogel of The New York Times (moderator), Sheila Krumholz of the Center for Responsive Politics, and Julie Bykowicz of the Wall Street Journal

Life on the Trail:
Former CBS News correspondent Julianna Goldman, the New York Times’ Lisa Lerer, ABC News’ Cecilia Vega, and Athena Jones of CNN (moderator)

Social Media Verification:
Benjamin Decker of Memetica and Aimee Rinehart (moderator) of First Draft News

Polling
A look at how to evaluate polling, how reporters can use these tools effectively without being beholden to them, and the need to get beyond the horserace
Former Clinton campaign pollster Joel Benenson, former Trump campaign pollster Mike Baselice, Amy Walter of The Cook Political Report (moderator), and Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion

Hacks & Flacks
A conversation about how to speak with campaign officials, who to know, how to cultivate sources, and how to deal with spin
Former Rubio campaign spokesman Alex Conant, American University’s Betsy Fischer Martin (moderator), and former Obama spokesperson Jen Psaki

2020 Outlook
A recap of the conference’s first day with a focus on the challenges of covering President Trump
IOP director David Axelrod, Nieman curator Ann Marie Lipinski (moderator), Jeff Zeleny of CNN, and Amy Walter of the Cook Political Report

Demographics & Identity Politics
A look at how to cover key demographic groups such as Latinos, millennials, conservatives, and overall demographic trends
CNN’s Ron Brownstein (moderator), Jane Coaston of Vox, Alfredo Corchado of The Dallas Morning News, and Ashley Spillane of Rock the Vote

Data in Campaigns
A session on how campaigns go about GOTV efforts, how data now equals power, and how campaigns use it
Monocle’s Sasha Issenberg (moderator), Larry Grisolano of AKPD, and Lena Tom of Progressive Data Jobs

Paid/Digital Media: How 2020 Campaigns Will Deliver Their Message
A discussion of how campaigns get their messages out via advertising and social media
Former Cruz campaign manager Jeff Roe, former Obama social media strategist Laura Olin, Washington Post reporter Ashley Parker (moderator), and former Sanders chief strategist Tad Devine

Bringing It Home
A look at key swing states in the general election and how reporters – both local and national ones – can focus on issues that matter in these states
Monica Davey, The New York Times Chicago bureau chief (moderator), Patricia Lopez of the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Rachel Stassen-Berger of the Des Moines Register, and Chad Livengood, senior reporter for Crain’s Detroit Business
The Iowa Project is the IOP's first-of-its-kind program that pairs University of Chicago students with paid internships in Iowa during the lead up to the caucuses. This year the IOP kicked off its second iteration of the project, following its launch in 2015, and this year's version far expands the size and scope of the program, with a total of 61 students participating this summer. 50 of these students will spend the summer interning for presidential campaigns in Iowa, while 11 students will have internships for news outlets, including ABC News, CBS News, CNN, FOX, NBC News, the Des Moines Register, Radio Iowa, and Iowa Public Television. Whereas in 2015 the Iowa Project included 18 students, this winter the IOP received a total of 185 student applications, leading us to expand the program beyond what we initially anticipated. The 61 student participants were selected after an extensive interview process in January and the diverse cohort formally launched with a series of Iowa-focused Fellows seminars in March hosted by former Iowa GOP chairman Matt Strawn and former Iowa Democratic Party chairwoman Sue Dvorsky. In April, the IOP launched a series of “campaign bootcamps” with political strategists, journalists, and public servants from Iowa in order to gain a deeper understanding of the political environment of the Iowa caucuses and to walk into their internships better prepared. That same month, students on the Journalism track attended the IOP's 2020 Campaign Journalism Conference to expand their journalism skills and, in many cases, meet their future colleagues. In early May, the IOP led a weekend trip for the cohort to Des Moines, giving them a chance to finalize housing, get a lay of the land, and see what Iowa is all about. The students will start their 10-week summer internships in Des Moines after the University of Chicago academic year wraps up in mid-June. In early 2020, the Iowa Project will culminate with a trip back to Des Moines so students can witness the caucuses in person.

The Iowa Project is led by the IOP’s Communications and Career Development teams, with Matt Jaffe, Melissa Navas, and Scott Davis heading up the program.

“The Iowa Project – being part of that inaugural class - was incredible and totally life-changing. It’s what I’ve been spending all of my time doing since then – working on campaigns. I met incredible people who really have been mentors throughout my entire career. I keep coming back to the people I met, the connections I made, and the relationships I built that summer of 2015. It’s really formed a great path for me moving forward.”

– Samantha Slaton, AB ’15, Women’s Political Director, Iowa For Warren
JOURNALISM TRACK
Dylan Wells, CNN
Ethan MacCumber, NBC News
Claire Potter and Olivia Chilkoti, ABC News
Emma Mitnick, CBS News
Jacob Biderman, FOX News
Clare Ulmer and Katie Akin, Des Moines Register
Olive Gardner, Radio Iowa
Jack Cruz-Alvarez and Caroline Kubzansky, Iowa Public TV

FIELD TRACK
George Adames-Diaz
Dayo Adeoye
Layla Al
Ale Clark-Ansani
Zander Arnao
Brett Barbin
Megha Bhattacharya
Grace Bologna
Paige Brann
Sofia Cabrera
Dinah Clottey
Cas Crevecouer
Peter Danos
Ben Donvan
Julia Du
Owen Elrifi
Rory Gates
Celia Hoffman
Alicia Hurtado
Isabella Hurtado
Addison Jeske
Eli Judge
Elaina Katz
Indi Khera
Ridgley Knapp
Davis Larkin
Miranda Lee
Chase Leito
Andrew Mandelstam

Jesse Martinez
David Mendieta
Zubair Merchant
Sophia Michel
Laura Pape
Pranathi Posa
Spencer Reed
Charlie Rollason
Michael Ryter
Lucy Seavey
Ronen Schatsky
Thulasi Seshan
Olivia Shaw
Anil Sindwhani
Jode Sparks
Dylan Stafford
Dylan Suffredini
Ryan Tufts
Emma Van Lieshout
Eric You
Adam Zabner
Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-IL, speaks at an IOP event
Providing a forum for leaders and other political actors to share their diverse experiences and insights on key issues of the day.

The IOP hosts nearly 100 Speaker Series events per year, ranging from large-scale events with audiences over 1,500 to seminar-style discussions at the IOP house. Since our founding in 2013 we have hosted over 650 events and over 1,000 unique speakers. The program provides a platform for direct interaction between the university community and distinguished guests who span a vast spectrum of ideological, professional, and geographical backgrounds. They share with students their crucial insights and opinions on domestic and international issues of today. In line with the University of Chicago’s commitment to open inquiry and discourse, Speaker Series events include a Q&A section, in which attendees can ask unfiltered questions to the speakers.

YEAR IN REVIEW
We have continued to increase the quality, accessibility, and reach of our programming. One major highlight of this term was a live recording of “The Axe Files” with former President Barack Obama. The 500 tickets for this student-only program were all claimed online within 90 seconds.

The municipal elections were our main focus in the winter quarter. All 14 mayoral candidates who made the ballot were invited to participate in our ChiElect series. Of the 14, nine accepted our invitation. The series culminated in a public safety forum featuring the two runoff candidates, Lori Lightfoot and Toni Preckwinkle. The IOP partnered with the Crime Lab and Harris School of Public Policy to host the forum, which focused on gun violence, crime, and policing. The program provided residents a unique opportunity to hear from each candidate on how they planned to address violence in the city.

We have also worked to bring 2020 presidential candidates to campus. This academic year we hosted the Honorable Pete Buttigieg, former Secretary of HUD Julián Castro, the Honorable John Delaney, and the Honorable Eric Swalwell.

Other guests included President of Ghana His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo; West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito; former Arizona Senator Jeff Flake; historian & board member Doris Kearns Goodwin; Gold Star parent Khizr Khan; former Ambassador Caroline Kennedy; Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth; Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy; former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano; former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus; FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver; activist and organizer Ai-jen Poo; founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative Bryan Stevenson; The Washington Post’s Bob Woodward; and The New York Times’ Maggie Haberman.

“I attend events with speakers that I really agree with and want to know more about and I test myself with viewpoints and speakers that I vehemently disagree with. This access to diverse perspectives opens up dialogue and humanizes the current polarization.”

- Student Survey Respondent

Historian and author Doris Kearns Goodwin

Former Florida GOP chair Al Cardenas and CNN’s Ana Navarro
STUDENT PROGRAMMING
Chicago Style, News & Views, and the International Policy Program (IPP) are student-led event programs that continue to produce quality events that respond quickly to news of the day. Highlights from this academic year include an event with the Consul General of Turkey in Chicago (IPP); a primer on recent Chicago political scandals (Chicago Style); a discussion of political unrest in Venezuela (News & Views); a program with the former U.S. Ambassador to Canada (IPP); and a conversation on gun violence in Chicago, featuring representatives from both the Chicago Police Department and community organizations (Chicago Style).

WHAT’S NEW
In an effort to be more responsive to news of the day and to create an atmosphere for political conversation, we developed a new series called “#Trending.” This year we hosted #Trending events examining the Mueller report, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation hearing, the politics of national emergencies, and a recap of the midterms.

WHAT’S NEXT
The 2020 election will lead our programming plans for next year. We hope to continue hosting presidential candidates and providing our students the opportunity to directly question and engage with them. Additionally, we will continue to respond to student requests for more inclusive representation in our guests and topics, specifically leaders of color, international issues, and more progressive and conservative viewpoints. We also hope to do more issue-focused programming that delves into leading policy challenges and solutions.

“The IOP speaker events have provided invaluable access and insight into the world of politics and policy making. Hearing key leaders from all areas of our government and political system reflect on their experiences has provided essential context for the coursework we are learning at [the Harris School of Public Policy], connecting stories to the frameworks and models we’re learning in the classroom.”

– Student Survey Respondent

5400 unique attendees

Students with former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus

Former Pres. Barack Obama with David Axelrod at a live taping of ‘The Axe Files’

UChicago Prof. Austan Goolsbee with FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver

Students with former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus
Politipalooza
Gov. Steve Bullock (D-MT)

Is President Trump Gaslighting America?
Amanda Carpenter, IOP Pritzker Fellow

Capitalism on Trial
Steven Pearlstein, The Washington Post

The Elephant in the Room: GOP & America
Al Cárdenas, fmr. Chairman of the American Conservative Union
Ana Navarro, CNN

How Bernie Won: Inside the Progressive Revolution
Jeff Weaver, fmr. campaign manager for Bernie Sanders

Khizr Khan on An American Family
Fmr. RNC Chairman and Fmr. White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus

#Trending: The Kavanaugh Confirmation

Active Measures: Putin’s Covert Political Warfare
Jack Bryan, filmmaker
Marley Clements, filmmaker
Evan McMullin, fmr. candidate for president

The Impact of Populism and Nationalism on American Democracy
Jonah Goldberg, National Review

Have We Learned Anything from the 2008 Financial Crisis?
Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT)
Hon. Henry Paulson, fmr. Sec. of the Treasury

U.S. Against the World: Trump and International Law
Prof. Harold Hongju Koh, fmr. Legal Adviser and Assistant Secretary for Human Rights at the U.S. Department of State

Chicago Style: Retain or Refrain? Why Judicial Elections Matter

Losing Earth: Is it Too Late to Act?
Nathaniel Rich, journalist

Doris Kearns Goodwin: From Bully Pulpit to Twitter Feed

Midterm Mayhem: Is the Blue Wave Coming?
Fmr. Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA), IOP Pritzker Fellow
Fmr. Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY), IOP Pritzker Fellow

Election Night Watch Party

IPP: The State of Turkey with Consul General Umut Acar

#Trending: The Day After

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Live Taping of “The Axe Files” with fmr. President Barack Obama

Chicago Style: Previewing the Chicago Municipal Elections

IPP: Germany After Merkel

CBS News’ Alex Wagner on Race, Identity, and Belonging

Rewriting the American Narrative with Bryan Stevenson

Building an Indo-Pacific Strategy with Asst. Sec. of Defense Randall Schriver

Back from the Trail: IOP Alumni on 2018 Campaigns
Brooke Goren (AB ’15)
Zach Stepp (AB ’18)
Matthew Trail (AB ’17)
SPEAKER SERIES
2018-2019 Events Calendar
Winter Quarter

We the Populists: A Conversation with David Leonhardt
General Stanley McChrystal on Leadership
The Honorable John Delaney
Pluralism in a Polarized Age: Navigating our Deepest Differences
Prof. John Inazu, Washington University in St. Louis
Eboo Patel, fmr. IOP Pritzker Fellow
Prof. Chiara Cordelli (moderator)

#Trending: The Politics of National Emergencies
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
Uncovering a Legacy of Abuse in the Catholic Church
Attorney General Josh Shapiro (D-PA)
Fmr. Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D-IL), IOP Pritzker Fellow

IPP: Addressing Trauma at the U.S.-Mexico Border
The United Stats of America with FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver

New Year, New IL: Transition of Illinois Government
Fmr. Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D-IL), IOP Pritzker Fellow
Deputy Governor Christian Mitchell

Chicago Style: The Evolution and Impact of Chicago Public Schools

News & Views: The State of International Trade
Mayor Pete Buttigieg and America’s Future

The Honorable Jeff Flake (R-AZ)

The Trump Administration at Two Years
Maggie Haberman, The New York Times
Ed Henry, FOX News
Abby Phillip, CNN

What It’s Like to Cover Trump
Maggie Haberman, The New York Times

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

ChiElection Night
Trump, Trade, and Tariffs
Brian Duncan, Illinois Farm Bureau
Zach Mottl, Atlas Tool Works
Fmr. Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL), IOP Pritzker Fellow

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)
Chicago Style: The Ins & Outs of the Ed Burke Scandal

News & Views: Political Unrest in Venezuela
IPP: Brexit – Deal or No Deal?
Chicago Public Safety Forum
SPEAKER SERIES
2018-2019 Events Calendar
Spring Quarter

His Excellency President Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana
Chicago Mayoral Runoff Watch Party
AEI’s Arthur Brooks on Loving Political Enemies
All the President’s Words: White House Speechwriters Reflect
Terry Edmonds, Speechwriter for fmr. President Bill Clinton
Sarah Hurwitz, Speechwriter for fmr. First Laddy Michelle Obama
John P. McConnell, Speechwriter for fmr. President George W. Bush
2020 Presidential Candidate: Julián Castro
Live Recording of “The Axe Files” with the Honorable Valerie B. Jarrett
America’s Public Schools: Making the Grade?
Janice K. Jackson, CEO of Chicago Public Schools
Fmr. Sec. John King, IOP Pritzker Fellow
Pedro Martinez, superintendent of San Antonio Independent School District

Caroline Kennedy on the Art of Diplomacy
#Trending: The Mueller Report
Amb. William J. Burns: American Leadership Through Diplomacy
Winners Take All: What are the Economic and Social Costs of Altruism?
Anand Giridharadas, writer
544 Days in Iranian Prison: The Washington Post’s Jason Rezaian
The Honorable Janet Napolitano: Homeland Security Since 9/11
IPP: Our Neighbors to the North – Amb. Bruce & Vicki Heyman on U.S.-Canada Relations
Old Town Roads: Reimagining American Infrastructure
Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ)
Fmr. Sec. Ray LaHood (R-IL)
Government: Do We Need MORE or LESS?
Gov. Jack Markell (D-DE), IOP Pritzker Fellow
Gov. Mark Sanford (R-SC), IOP Pritzker Fellow
Freedom of the Press and the Future of Democracy
Marty Baron, The Washington Post
Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
#Trending: Inside the Indian Elections
History in the Making: Bob Woodward & David Axelrod
Protecting Freedom in an Age of Fear: Ambassador Patrick Gaspard
IPP: The Impact of Climate Change on Migration
Chicago Style: The Obama Foundation
The Politics of War, Peace, & Leadership with General David H. Petraeus
From the Beltway to Beyond: The Road to 2020
Stephanie Cutter
Robert Gibbs
Ed Gillespie
Fmr. Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D-MI)
Howard Wolfson (AB ’89)
David Axelrod (moderator)

So You Want to Start a Movement?
Ai-jen Poo, National Domestic Workers Alliance
George Goehl, People’s Action
Chicago Style: Exploring Crime and Gun Violence in Chicago
The Yemeni Civil War – and How the U.S. is Involved
Maggie Michael, Associated Press
Jeffrey Stern, journalist
IOP Fellow John King with guest DeRay Mckesson
Engaging students directly with a diverse cohort of elected political officials, diplomats, policymakers, and journalists to help them identify practical pathways into public service.

The Pritzker Fellows Program invites students to learn from and question leading political minds and public servants in weekly student-only, off-the-record seminars. Fellows and their guests share valuable insights and perspective on today’s politics and policy in action. Fellows also hold office hours to meet with students one-on-one to discuss whatever questions a student brings to the session. Additionally, they take part in a range of on- and off-campus activities and events. As practitioners and as leaders, Fellows offer valuable practical advice gleaned from years of experience and illuminate multiple pathways into public service for our students.

YEAR IN REVIEW
The IOP hosted 21 Resident and Visiting Fellows during the 2018-19 academic year, a group that included former elected officials, political strategists, former cabinet secretaries, top political journalists, foreign journalists, activists and city officials. Fellows explored implementing policy on the local level as well as state and federal policy-making, highlighting the pros and cons of different political approaches.

Our journalists looked at distrust in media and initiatives that are working to win back the public trust, the nuts and bolts of good campaign journalism, the use of data and technology, and, in the case of ChiElect, the issues raised in the Chicago mayoral elections in dialogues with the candidates themselves. Other issues the Fellows tackled included education, immigration, criminal justice reform, regional U.S. foreign policy and intelligence, the budget deficit, and the midterm elections.

Fellows also held discussions on what it means to be a conservative and a Republican in the era of Trump; starting and sustaining a political career; running as a Democrat in a red state; how to be an effective campaign and/or issue organizer; the political geography of the U.S. and its implications for future elections; the importance of free speech; and many more topics. Several Fellows recounted their personal narratives to the students, exploring the twists and turns of their careers.

Fellows brought a wide range of guests to speak in-person at their seminars, including: political strategists James Carville, Corry Bliss, Mitch Stewart, and Jon Kohan; Illinois gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker; journalists Lisa Lerer, Natasha Korecki, Claire Wardle, Joy Reid, and Jonathan Martin; Former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; Former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; North Carolina Congressman David Price; San Antonio Public Schools Superintendent Pedro Martinez; Stockton, CA Mayor Michael Tubbs; organizers DeRay Mckesson, Shoren Brown, Anna Galland and Ilya Sheyman; National Immigrant Justice Center Executive Director Mary Meg McCarthy; retired CIA analyst Paul Heer and former NSC Senior Director for the Americas Dan Restrepo; Former Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz; transgender activist Sarah McBride; AZ Independent Redistricting Commission Chair Colleen Coyle Mathis, and many more. Additional guests joined by video-conference to speak with students.
Each Fellow had a team of student ambassadors who managed seminars and office hours and were their liaisons to campus student life. Fellows and their ambassadors developed strong mentoring relationships which often continue well beyond their time on campus. This year, Fall Fellow Paul Tewes inspired countless students to apply for the IOP’s Iowa Project and returned to campus in the spring for a campaign bootcamp to help them prepare for the experience.

In addition to their seminar responsibilities, Fellows held workshops and career talks at the IOP, and engaged with multiple student groups and University programs across the campus, including the Project on Political Reform at the Harris School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago Law School, College Republicans and UC Dems, Mexicans at UChicago, Minorities in Public Policy, Obama Foundation Scholars, the Booth School of Business, The Pearson Institute, the Maroon (student newspaper), as well as the IOP’s Leaders of Color Initiative, Bridging the Divide program, Women in Public Service Program and The Gate. Fellows also gave talks that launched criminal justice and education treks led by the IOP’s Civic Engagement Program.

WHAT’S NEW
Pan-IOP programs such as the ChiElect and the Iowa Project offered an opportunity for the Fellows to forge broader connections with the IOP and these synergies made those programs stronger. We will continue to seek opportunities to better integrate the Fellows across the IOP and the university.

The fall seminar series led by former Congressmen Steve Israel (D-NY) and Tom Davis (R-VA) offered an opportunity for a bipartisan team to explore the midterm elections and is a model for a team Fellows approach we hope to use for future seminar topics.

WHAT’S NEXT
In addition to continuing to expand the reach of our Fellows at the IOP and experimenting with Fellows pairings such as Davis and Israel, we see other areas in which we can improve. The Fellows Ambassador program will be examined and overhauled to give more students touch-points with the Fellows. Finally, we intend to develop a plan to better engage and utilize our Fellows alumni network, involving them in both future programming on campus and IOP alumni events as our student alumni association grows and develops.
AMANDA CARPENTER
- CNN Contributor, author & former senior communications adviser for Sen. Ted Cruz
- “Life in the Spin Zone”
  Amanda Carpenter drew on her experience working on Capitol Hill, on campaigns, and in the media to discuss the complexities of navigating the truth in the Trump era. In a series of three seminars, Carpenter examined the ways political operatives obfuscate the truth and how the media can effectively clear the clutter. She also dissected the midterm results and analyzed President Trump’s effect on the GOP and implications for 2020.

TOM DAVIS & STEVE ISRAEL
- Former Republican congressman from Virginia and former Democratic congressman from New York, respectively
  Across the country, the 2018 midterms were some of the most intense, surprising, and hard-fought battles in years. Where was it all headed? In these seminars, Former Congressman Tom Davis, who ran the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1999-2003, and former Congressman Steve Israel, who ran the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 2011-2015 gave their analysis. Together, they looked at all the factors affecting the midterm elections, from pollsters and party politics to candidates, gerrymandering, demographics, and, most importantly, the voters themselves. There is much conventional wisdom that governs how midterm outcomes are predicted, but American voters have learned to expect the unexpected. Was it a blue wave or a red surge? These seminars navigated through the last month of the 2018 campaigns, and, when it was all over, discussed what the results meant for Congress and the Trump Administration going forward.

MARY KATHERINE-HAM
- CNN Conservative Commentator, Senior Writer at The Federalist, and CNN Political Commentator
- Mary Katherine-Ham held two seminars examining the importance of free speech and what it means to be a conservative in America today. She looked at how to put free speech into practice and how to disagree without being disagreeable, opening up a world of ideas and increased tolerance. Her second seminar explored what it means to be a self-described #LOLNothingMatters Republican and discussed the ideological divides in the American electorate and where the parties are heading.

“It’s a great privilege to be able to interact ‘off the record’ with the experienced, educated, and involved Fellows - most especially because politics and Washington are most often imbued with a certain form of anxiety that limits honest questioning.”

- Anonymous Student Survey Respondent
With little focus beyond immigration and negative stereotypes in Washington, what are the big trends in Mexico and the Americas these days? The Americas - from Canada to Tierra del Fuego - matter more to average Americans on a daily basis than any other region in the world - economically, culturally, politically - even to our public health. Yet neither policymakers nor the media spend much time focused on the countries of North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. With a particular focus on Mexico, the series addressed some of the biggest issues in the Western Hemisphere and why they should matter to all of us.

**AMEYA PAWAR**

Alderman for the 47th Ward of the City of Chicago

“Race, Class, Geography & Narrative: An (Unlikely) Chicago Alderman’s Perspective”

Ameya Pawar was, until May 20th, 2019, one of the 50 aldermen that make up the Chicago City Council and was the first Asian American elected to the position. He described his role as part mini-major, part feudal lord, and part legislator. In these seminars, he explored city governance as a distinct area of hope for a more progressive democracy. He looked at the possibilities major cities have to change the trajectory of the nation and mitigate troubling global trends as they begin functioning as nation-states. In particular, he explored how Chicago has the opportunity to lead a national and global dialogue on a progressive urban agenda.

**MARÍA RAMÍREZ**

Co-founder of Politibot and political reporter for Univision

“How to Fight Polarization, Nationalism & Distrust in Media in Europe & the U.S.”

In the last two years we have seen parallel narratives develop across Europe and the United States with the rise of populism and the erosion of trust in media and other institutions. At the same time, unexpected leaders have gained power or votes by spreading messages against targeted groups and by exploiting identity politics on the left and the right. This seminar series explored the nuances of these dynamics on both sides of the Atlantic and what policymakers and journalists should do in this context.

**PAUL TEWES**

Veteran political strategist and organizer

“The Art of Organizing”

Organizing has been, is and always will be an art. Whether it’s with a clipboard and a pen or a sophisticated online platform, the fundamental building blocks of strong and effective organizing are still directly dependent on purely non-technological ideas – empowerment, passion, leadership, respect, and inclusion. These seminars explored effective organizing from a practical perspective and asked: How do you build an effective campaign?
PRITZKER FELLOWS PROGRAM
2018-2019 Fellows
Fall Quarter

› SUE DVORSKY & MATT STRAWN
  > Former chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Party and former chairman of the Iowa Republican Party, respectively
  > “The Road to the White House Begins in Iowa”

There’s an old saying in national political circles that no politician ever goes to Iowa by accident. So, why do leading national politicians find themselves smiling in photo ops in front of the Iowa State Fair Butter Cow in the summer and driving through blizzards on two-lane rural highways to townhall meetings in the winter? It’s because they want to be President of the United States of America, and Iowa is where it all begins. This series provided an overview of the history and mechanics of the Iowa Presidential caucuses, how the caucuses grew in importance to the presidential nomination process, and why Iowa’s approach to vetting presidential candidates has been instrumental in maintaining the state’s unique position in American politics.

› LISA MADIGAN
  > Former Attorney General of Illinois
  > “Public Service: Policy & Possibilities”

If you want to help people and effectuate change at the local, state, and federal level, there is no better position than state attorney general. As the longest serving Illinois Attorney General, Madigan was at the forefront of AGs who redefined the office. In her seminars, she discussed many of the issues she tackled during her 16 years as AG, including leading negotiations to reform the Chicago Police Department, opening an investigation into the sexual abuse of minors by priests in the Catholic Church, litigating for the enforcement of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and immigration reform to name a few. Using her experience as an example, these seminars helped students determine how they can influence public policy themselves.

› CLAIRE McCASKILL
  > Former Democratic Senator from Missouri
  > “Having the Blues in a Red Place”

Claire McCaskill notes on her Twitter site her new normal after losing her third bid for the U.S. Senate last fall: “Former bunch of stuff.” Those mere four words really represent a nearly 40-year career in public service including: two terms as Missouri’s first woman Senator elected in her own right; stints as state auditor, county prosecutor, and state representative; as well as an election win/loss record of 22-2 in an ever-redder state. Recently tapped to join NBC and MSNBC as a political analyst because of her smart, witty and brazenly frank insight, she came to the IOP with a newfound freedom to speak her mind - even more than usual - about the changes she has seen and the path forward she craves for the nation.

“The fellows seminars have provided me with a tremendous opportunity to learn from practitioners in the field. I was particularly inspired by Lisa Madigan’s seminars, and gained confidence in my own abilities to pursue law school and work at an Attorney General’s office in the future, or even be the attorney general myself one day.”

- Student Survey Respondent
Public opinion polls typically hold Congress in low regard regardless of the majority party. Yet there is often more going on in the House than meets the eye, and attributes of Congressional structure and practice might be more valuable than they are perceived. That said, constituents and others outside of the institution have far more influence than they think. This seminar sought to give participants a renewed appreciation of the legislative branch and equip them with tools to engage it successfully.

LAURA WASHINGTON

Chicago Sun-Times columnist and ABC-7 political analyst

“So You Think Congress Needs Fixing?”

As part of ChiElect, the IOP invited all mayoral candidates to discuss their visions for the city and the reasons they were running for Chicago’s head office. Veteran Chicago journalist Laura Washington moderated these discussions and led seminars that previewed the major issues in the election and analyzed the results as the city headed into the run-off.
PRITZKER FELLOWS PROGRAM
2018-2019 Fellows
Spring Quarter

› KARINE JEAN-PIERRE
  › Chief Public Affairs Officer for MoveOn and an NBC and MSNBC political analyst
  › “Moving Forward: Activism in the Trump Era”

In this seminar series, participants learned about the campaign, advocacy, and media strategies used to achieve political and policy victories in the Trump era. Led by Karine Jean-Pierre, Chief Public Affairs Officer for MoveOn and an NBC and MSNBC Political Analyst, students gained insights on what makes a campaign successful on any level, ranging from White House advocacy to grassroots activism, from local politics to presidential campaigns.

› JOHN KING JR.
  › Former Secretary of Education; President and CEO of The Education Trust
  › “Leading in Education Policy from Different Seats”

In these seminars, students examined the dynamic and complex state of American public education, the various actors taking the lead on education policy, and the levers they employ to implement change. Topics included educational justice and activism; charters and education innovation; policy development and implementation on a district, state and federal level; the teacher’s perspective; and litigation as a tool for policy change.

› JACK MARKELL
  › Former Democratic Governor of Delaware
  › “Governing from a World View”

How do effective governors and other executive branch leaders think about their roles? Jack Markell has a strong view that these leaders must have a very clear “world view” about how the world around us is changing, what those changes mean for the people they serve and what they need to do differently as a result. In these seminars, he explored his policy initiatives as Governor and how they were driven by his world view. Students discussed their own world views and explored how they could be used to develop a narrative to drive an administration, as well as specific policy proposals, narratives and advocacy efforts to make a leader’s vision real.

› MARK SANFORD
  › Former Republican U.S. Representative and Governor of South Carolina
  › “25 Years in Politics & 8 Practical Lessons Learned the Hard Way”

The political landscape is constantly evolving and Mark Sanford has been an active participant in federal and state politics over the last quarter of a century. From this he gained a unique perspective not only on what has occurred, but what may come next. These seminars reflected on his 25 years in the rough and tumble world of electoral politics and the many lessons learned along the way, plus a defense of the vision of conservatism that he fears his party has abandoned.
How do we make sense of how America makes its foreign policy at a time of turmoil and transformation? What is, and should be, America’s role and interest in addressing myriad complex global challenges? This seminar series explored major issues in U.S. foreign policymaking with a particular focus on North Korea and more broadly on U.S. policy in Northeast Asia. Seminars examined the role of intelligence in U.S. policymaking and the major institutions and actors in the U.S. foreign policymaking system.

**SUE MI TERRY**

Former National Security Council staff member

“U.S. Intelligence and Policymaking: North Korea and Beyond”

**DAVID WASSERMAN**

House Editor for The Cook Political Report

“Mapping our Future: Congressional Elections & Redistricting 2021”

The objective of this seminar was to explore long-term trends in political geography; the evolution of congressional campaigns; and the future of elections with an eye to the 2020 Census and 2021 redistricting. How have we arrived at this bitterly divided moment? What’s at stake in the next Census and what are the prospects for gerrymandering reform? David Wasserman explored all of these subjects, alternating between campaign and redistricting topics.

**DAVID YEPSEN**

Host of “Iowa Press” on Iowa Public Television

“Campaign Journalism 101”

As the IOP’s Broder Fellow, David Yepsen broke down “shoe-leather journalism” and the nuts and bolts of political reporting in his seminars. What does it take to be a good political journalist? How does a reporter maintain objectivity and sanity on the trail? Using stories and examples from his experience covering nine Presidential campaigns, David explored the ins and outs of campaign journalism through the lens of Iowa. Seminars explored topics such as the ethics of political coverage; the increased weaponization of media in the digital age; why fact-checking is important and how to do it; and the future of campaign journalism as we head into the 2020 campaign.
Providing paid opportunities for UChicago students to pursue substantive, career-oriented internships in politics, policymaking, and other public service fields.

Career Development is an essential pillar of the IOP, one that encourages students to go into public service by providing them with practical experience, skills training, advising, and the robust professional network necessary to succeed. In particular, the IOP's Internship Program distinguishes itself from others by providing students with financial support, enabling all students to pursue these opportunities regardless of economic status. Since January 2013, the IOP has provided over 1,600 paid public service internships in the United States and all over the world. Career Development also supports the IOP's active Alumni Network, which now includes more than 1,500 graduates.

YEAR IN REVIEW
In 2018-19, University of Chicago students took advantage of hundreds of academic year and summer internships, skills building workshops, a trek to the U.S. Capitol, and career conversations with politicians, policymakers, and practitioners.

This summer, more than 235 students will intern all over the country and the globe as part of our IOP Summer Internship Program and the IOP Summer Stipend Program. Students interning in Washington, D.C. will again have the chance to participate in the IOP's Charles H. Percy Summer in Washington (SIW) Program, which provides summer-long programming and mentoring. Additionally, through the Urban Policy & Research Program (UPreP), 25 students had the opportunity to work in paid policy and research internships in Chicago-area government agencies during the academic year, allowing them to utilize their rigorous UChicago education to tackle complex urban challenges. In total, the IOP supported 260 paid internships in 2018-19.

This year, students also had the opportunity to engage with a wide array of Career Development workshops and programming. They heard from Sue Mi Terry, a Spring 2019 Fellow and North Korea expert; Bénédicte de Montlaur, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in the U.S.; and Patrick Murphy, former U.S. Under Secretary of the Army. Students received customized one-on-one career advising to refine resumes and cover letters, prepare for job interviews, and explore career interests. Feedback from the student survey and coordination from the Student Advisory Board allowed for the IOP to tailor career development workshops to students' interests.

In addition, 14 students participated in this year's annual career trek to Washington, D.C. to meet with government officials, policymakers, journalists, and advocates. Students attended sessions with the American Enterprise Institute, LIFT, Inc., Mobilize America, the New York Times Washington, D.C. bureau, Precision Strategies, the Office of Sen. Dick Durbin, and IOP alumni working in the region.

“Coming from a rural Wisconsin town of about 1,500 people, I am finally starting to see and learn all of the endless political opportunities and ideas out there. Being at home and in high school I always felt my dreams were just dreams, but with all of the opportunities provided from UChicago and especially the IOP, I realize that if I keep up my hard work and determination that got me into this school, I can someday reach and exceed my goals.” – Jacqueline Rosa, AB ’22

Student Rodrigo Estrada, AB ’21, outside the White House during his internship.
WHAT’S NEW
Career Development began diversifying where it seeks public service internship opportunities by expanding to more rural communities. This summer, students will work for rural-focused organizations that serve low-income families in the Mississippi Delta; constituents in Peoria, Illinois; and farmers and the business community involved with Illinois agriculture. The University is establishing a new program to recruit and retain more students from rural communities, and the IOP will play a key role in securing internships and providing content that addresses rural policy and public service issues.

This academic year Career Development also began partnering with the UChicago Odyssey Scholars program, which supports first-generation and low-income students. First-year students are given a summer internship stipend and Career Development has sought employers who would be interested in hosting first-year students interested in public service. This partnership with the Odyssey Scholars program allows Career Development to connect underrepresented students with public service opportunities.

A new initiative, spearheaded by our Student Advisory Board Career Development Chair Michelle Shim, AB ’20, brought in an alumni panel each quarter, inviting UChicago and IOP alumni to discuss careers in civic technology, think tanks, and non-profit advocacy work. Each session brought more than 30 attendees to network and explore new job fields while also engaging recent alumni in the IOP. These alumni panels will become part of Career Development’s regular offerings next year.

WHAT’S NEXT
We continue to build and engage our IOP alumni community by supporting the infrastructure of the IOP Alumni Network (for more see page 42). This includes managing a monthly alumni newsletter and regularly checking in with the IOP Alumni Network board, made up of graduated IOP students who still want to be engaged with the IOP. In our 2019-20 budget, we have included modest resources for alumni events in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

700+ unique internship applicants

“Being able to talk to people who graduated just four years ago, who took the same classes we are taking within the same programs and extracurriculars as us, and seeing where they ended up and how they got from where we are to their current position was incredibly powerful.” – Kaitlyn Van Baalen, AB ’22
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Internship Placements

ELECTED OFFICIALS
› Alderman Daniel La Spata (D-IL/01)
› City of Chicago, Department of Buildings
› City of Chicago, Department of Family and Support Services
› Cook County Commissioner, Larry Suffredin (D-IL/13)
› Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office
› Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office
› Mayor of Boston, MA, Marty Walsh
› New York State Assemblyman Daniel O’Donnell (D-NY/69)
› U.S. Congressman Brad Schneider (D-IL/10)
› U.S. Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL/13)
› U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA/33)
› U.S. Congresswoman Kelly Cassidy (D-IL/14)
› Mayor of Gary, IN, Karen Freeman-Wilson
› Mayor of Stockton, CA, Michael Tubbs
› Member of Parliament, Ed Miliband (London, UK)
› U.S. Congresswoman Kelly Cassidy (D-IL/14)
› State Representative Lamont Robinson (D-IL/05)
› State Senator Heather Steans (D-IL/07)
› U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
› U.S. Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA/03)
› U.S. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL/17)
› U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
› U.S Congressman Tom Reed (R-NY/23)

GOVERNMENT OFFICES
› California Office of the State Public Defender
› Chicago City Treasurer
› Chicago Turkish Consulate General
› Cook County Department of Corrections
› Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
› U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee
› South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul, South Korea)
› United Nations - New York, NY
› United Nations - Vienna, Austria
› U.S. Department of Energy
› U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
› U.S. Department of Homeland Security
› U.S. Department of State
› Kiev, Ukraine
› Rome, Italy
› Vienna, Austria
› New York, NY
› Berlin, Germany
› Boston, MA
› Vatican City, Vatican
› London, UK
› Washington, D.C.
› U.S. Department of the Interior
› U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
› U.S. Office of Management and Budget
› U.S. Peace Corps
› The White House

MEDIA
› ABC
› CNN
› CBS
› Chicago Sun-Times
› Crooked Media
› Des Moines Register
› Fox News
› Injustice Watch
› Iowa Public Television
› NBC
› Peoria Journal-Star
› Radio Iowa
› USA Today

NON-PROFIT ADVOCACY
› All In Together
› Brennan Center
› Chicago Ideas
› Chicago Torture Justice Center
› Chinese American Service League
› Citizens Budget Commission
› Collaborative for Community Wellness
› Delta Health Alliance
› Domestic Violence Legal Clinic
› Environmental Law & Policy Center
› Fahe
› Housing Assistance Council
› Illinois Business Immigration Coalition
› Illinois Farm Bureau
› Illinois Justice Project
› Innovations for Poverty Action (Accra, Ghana)
› Institute for Justice
› La 72 (Tenosique, Mexico)
› League of Women Voters - Illinois
› Legal Services Corporation
› LIFT, Inc.
› Muslim Public Affairs Council
› One Million Degrees
› Rohingya Cultural Center
› Shakti (Bengaluru, India)
› Theirworld
› Uncommon Law
› University of Chicago Office of Federal Relations

POLITICAL CONSULTING/STRATEGY
› 50+1 Strategies
› AKPD
› Beacon Global Strategies
› Benenson Strategy Group
› Blue Engine Message and Media
› Emerging Markets Political Risk Analysis (Mexico City, Mexico)
› KJD Strategies
› New Heights Communication
› No Com (Paris, France)
› Precision Strategies
› Reform for Illinois
› Republican Governor’s Association
› The Tuesday Company

THINK TANKS
› Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Beijing, China)
› Center for American Progress
› Center of International Private Enterprise
› Center for the Study of Social Policy
› Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
› Chicago Council on Global Affairs
› Civic Enterprises
› Committee for Economic Development
› Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST)
› Foreign Policy For America
› Institute for National Security Studies
› Institute for National Security Studies (Tel Aviv, Israel)
› Metropolitan Planning Council
› New America
› Pew Research Center
› The Aspen Institute
› The Brookings Institution
› The Hudson Institute
› The Wilson Center

UPREP
› Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
› Chicago Police Department
› Chicago Public Schools; Department of School Quality Measurement and Research
› Chicago Public Schools; Office of Social Emotional Learning
› Chicago Public Schools; Office of College and Career Success
› City Colleges of Chicago
› City Colleges of Chicago Foundation
› Chicago Housing Authority
› Cook County Department of Corrections
› Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office
› Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office
› Office of New Americans - Mayor’s Office
› Office of the City Treasurer

CIVIC TECHNOLOGY
› Apolitical (London, UK)
› Civic Hall Labs
› Democracy Works, Inc.
› Higher Ground Labs
› Results for America

260 interns (summer + UPReP)
Mylon Patton, AB '22, explores the Stony Island Arts Bank during the Arts and Advocacy Trek.
Providing pathways for students to activate their interest in politics via civic engagement.

The Civic Engagement (CE) Program provides opportunities for students to create civic solutions to the challenges facing democracy and politics and to develop their leadership skills. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Civic Engagement Program helped launch UChiVotes, a student-led voter engagement initiative to increase registration and turnout for the 2018 midterm elections and 2019 Chicago municipal elections; expanded Bridging the Divide, a leadership program that addresses rural-urban divides; and organized a series of Local Treks that provided students with first-hand exposure to the people, politics, and policies shaping Chicago. In addition, we continued to advise our six student-run civic engagement groups and collaborate with campus and community partners.

YEAR IN REVIEW
The Civic Engagement Program engaged approximately 600 students in its student-run groups, treks, and leadership programs. One highlight is our expansion of Bridging the Divide. In addition to our partnership with Eureka College, we added an additional institutional partner, Arrupe College, a two-year open-access Jesuit community college that serves a diverse, Chicago-based population. Twenty-seven students from University of Chicago, Eureka College, and Arrupe College explored the political chasm between urban and rural communities, diving deep into three policy issues: the economy, workforce development, and immigration in both urban and rural contexts. Students participated in three immersion weekends, during which they met with legislators, stakeholders, and community members. The staff also organized a series of Local Treks, which provided a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to meet with community partners, legislators, and institutions working on a particular policy topic. Over the course of six treks, students explored community development, local reporting (on the South and West Sides of Chicago), criminal justice, arts and advocacy, and K-12 public education. The six student-run programs continued to engage students in leadership and service opportunities that shape the UChicago campus and the broader city of Chicago. In-depth updates on student programs can be found on the next page.

WHAT'S NEW
Civic Engagement launched two new programming series: one focuses on workshops and training for civic leaders, and the other offers political exploration treks in Chicago for students seeking a foothold in politics. Both programs respond to formal and informal feedback from students on ways to advance their leadership development and civic engagement.

WHAT’S NEXT
The 2019-2020 academic year offers an opportunity to engage UChicago students in the primary voting process, the census, and the delegate process for the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Civic Engagement, and the IOP as a whole, will offer programming to inform and engage students in the primary election through voter registration, speakers, and opportunities to directly get involved in the campaign process. The Civic Engagement Program will also partner with local agencies and nonprofits to help students understand the role of the census in urban and rural communities.

Civic Engagement will continue to expand new initiatives launched this year, including new local treks, more treks around the country, and a grant program to help incubate new student projects.

“**I really enjoy being involved with Civic Engagement. It’s a great way to meet likeminded people and feel like I’m making an impact beyond campus.”** - Student Survey Respondent
PROGRAM UPDATES

Chicago Peace Corps (CPC) aims to advance restorative justice in Chicago and believes in the power of young people to make sustainable change. This year, CPC members regularly volunteered in the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation’s Education Lab.

Highlights
› Hosted five guest speakers from Chicago non-profits who interface with restorative justice in a variety of contexts, including education, community development, and criminal justice.

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

Highlights
› Hosted seven journalism seminars and workshops with visiting fellows and guests.
› 39+ members of the UChicago community who are unaffiliated with the editorial board wrote stories for the Gate
› Published one print edition
› Visited an Editorial Board meeting at the Chicago Tribune.
› Streamlined and supported the Cook County Jail Bridge Workshop, a project through which student volunteers teach creative writing to detainees at the Cook County Jail. This year, seven undergraduates worked with detainees to write personal essays and poems.

Leaders of Color (LoC) is a student-run leadership development program for first- and second-year students of color. Through cohort-based trainings, workshops, and speakers, this initiative prepares students of color for leadership positions across campus and in the public sector. LoC also includes the Politics and Identity speaker series that raises critical conversations about race, politics, and leadership.

Highlights
› Accepted 35 first- and second-year students of color into this year’s cohort, LoC’s largest class yet
› Expanded LoC’s engagement with the IOP and with local and international leaders of color by hosting a workshop with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs focused on engaging with structural power, holding student sessions with IOP Fellows, and bringing in two women of color experts to talk about the parallels between women’s agency and resistance politics in Kashmir and Palestine.
› Collaborated with external partners through visits to the Invisible Institute to talk about policing and journalism, as well as a career development workshop with Google.

LegUP is a college readiness and mentorship program at the UChicago Charter School in Woodlawn. Founded and developed by undergraduate fellows of the Shriver Program for Leadership in Public Service, LegUP aims to help high school students navigate the college application process.

Highlights
› Strengthened its partnership with University of Chicago Charter School – Woodlawn (UC Woodlawn) as part of the school’s college access supports.
› Offered one-on-one mentorship to students every day during lunch periods, working in conjunction with UC Woodlawn College Counselors.
› Successfully applied to become a Recognized Student Organization (RSO) under UChicago’s Center for Leadership and Involvement.
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.

**Highlights**

› Doubled its membership to over 75 unique students.
› Worked with six community organizations to build vital tech services. Clients included Maroon Tutor Match, the Lincoln Park Conservatory, and the Experimental Station Bike Shop. Completed a year-long project to build a disease reporting app for the Chicago Department of Public Health.
› Hosted quarter-long programming workshops for over 30 students to equip them with civic tech skills. Revamped ThinkTank, TechTeam’s clientless project group, through which students research and prepare data journalism pieces on topics ranging from public transportation to the quality of early childhood learning centers in Chicago.
› Engaged with the wider civic tech community by attending Chi Hack Night and hosting civic tech practitioners.

The Women in Public Service Program (WPSP) works to provide training, mentorship, and resources to women and underrepresented genders who are interested in public service. WPSP’s work culminates in a Winter Leadership Institute that teaches undergraduate women the skills necessary to be an effective leader in the public sector.

**Highlights**

› Accepted 50 undergraduate women and underrepresented genders to the Winter Leadership Institute.
› WPSP Engage, the direct-service arm of WPSP, tripled its membership to 12 people and expanded its partner organizations to include Chicago Public Schools.

"As an out-of-state student who is unfamiliar with Chicago, I found [the treks] more beneficial than I could have imagined. Hearing from an alderman, social service agency employees, and nonprofit CEOs or Executive Directors provided insight into the various responsibilities in social service."

– Trek Participant Megan Daniels, MA ‘20
A student on the Bridging the Divide program is interviewed by PBS
The IOP’s Communications team helps tell the story of the IOP to campus, the Hyde Park community, the city of Chicago, and beyond. By using social media, our website, press coverage, “The Axe Files” podcast, and weekly newsletters, the Communications team highlights the work of every program area at the IOP, raising awareness, boosting event attendance, attracting new students, and leading various pan-IOP initiatives such as the 2020 Campaign Journalism Conference, the Iowa Project, and UChiVotes.

YEAR IN REVIEW
The 2018-19 academic year saw the Communications team take the lead on a number of special projects that intersect with various program areas. In the fall, the Communications team supported the voter engagement initiative UChiVotes by building a website, amplifying their social media efforts, and advising on campus-wide outreach.

In the winter, the Communications team, in conjunction with the IOP’s Career Development team, arranged Iowa Project summer internships at eight news outlets, generated almost 200 applications for the program via promotional efforts, and put together a series of campaign bootcamps and a trip to Des Moines to prepare the students for their summer work.

In the spring, the Communications team worked closely with the Speaker Series team to host the second-ever Campaign Journalism Conference with the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard. This year’s conference more than doubled the number of attendees from the 2015 version and featured 50 speakers. Throughout the year the Communications team has prioritized increasing student engagement on social media and boosting representation of all program areas in the IOP’s social media posts.

As of May 2019, the IOP has had a 40 percent year over year increase in followers across all social media platforms. This year, “The Axe Files” podcast reached the 300 episode mark; featured live tapings with former President Obama, Valerie Jarrett, and others; and CNN TV specials with guests such as Beto O’Rourke, Jeb Bush, and Sonia Sotomayor.

WHAT’S NEW
This spring “The Axe Files” moved from CNN – its home for the last two-plus years – to Luminary Media, a new subscription-based podcasting platform. While the TV specials will continue to air monthly on CNN, the podcast episodes will now be available exclusively for Luminary premium subscribers. The podcast joins other Luminary shows with hosts such as Guy Raz, Trevor Noah, Leon Neyfakh, and Lena Dunham.

This year the Communications team has also led a data migration to Neon, a new content management system that will facilitate workflow between various program areas. The IOP now has a database of about 35,000 unique contacts and, with Neon, can better manage and communicate with this database. The Communications team also revamped the IOP homepage, created a special page to make it easier for students to get involved at the IOP, and had three event videos top the 20,000-view mark, including February’s event with presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg that now has over 48,000 views. The IOP’s Communications team generated over 240 press clips this year, including a “PBS NewsHour” feature on the Bridging the Divide program.

WHAT’S NEXT
In the coming year the Communications team hopes to launch a new podcast outside the Luminary paywall that focuses strictly on the 2020 Election, reoptimize the entire IOP site to give it a more intuitive and modern feel, adopt a more inclusive and casual tone on social media, and streamline the weekly newsletters to make them shorter but more engaging.
ALUMNI

David Axelrod with IOP alum Kennedy Green, AB ’18, at a 2018 reception
W e believe that our mission of engaging students in politics and public service doesn’t end when students graduate. Because of this, the IOP has significantly increased its alumni-focused efforts over the last year thanks to a growing community of engaged volunteers and strong leadership from Sofia Gross, AB ’15. Currently, we have over 1,500 active alumni in our community.

The goals of our alumni engagement strategy are threefold: 1) continue the community of the IOP beyond graduation, providing in-person and digital spaces for alumni to connect with each other, IOP staff, and former speakers and fellows; 2) build a growing roster of alumni who provide mentoring and guidance for current UChicago students; and 3) create a pipeline of alumni who can serve as future fellows, speakers, internship hosts, and financial supporters.

YEAR IN REVIEW
In October 2018, the IOP put out a call to our alumni community asking for volunteers to join an alumni committee. This committee was designed to support three areas of focus: data collection, communications, and network growth. Led by Sofia, over 30 alumni came forward and offered to be a part of the team. Aneri Amin (AB ’16) was chosen to oversee the data initiative, Matthew Foldi (AB ’18) to lead alumni communications, and Sarah Morell (AB ’15) to coordinate network growth. Each of these chairs has 5-6 alumni volunteers supporting their efforts, and they have already begun to make progress on each of their initiatives, including city preparation guides for summer interns, a redesigned alumni survey, and a growing social media community.

WHAT’S NEW?
Alumni have increasingly become part of IOP programming. In December 2018, the IOP hosted its first career panel featuring recent alumni who worked on campaigns during the midterm elections, including Zach Stepp, AB ’18, who served as a campaign manager for a Congressional race in Ohio and Matthew Trail, AB ’17, who was communications director for New England GOP Congressman Pete Ricketts’ re-election campaign. The panels continued monthly through Spring 2019 and aimed to give current students a chance to hear from recent alumni who work in different public service sectors. Led by Michelle Shim (AB ’20), the Career Development Chair on the Student Advisory Board, these panels focused on careers in civic technology, think tanks, and non-profit advocacy work. After receiving positive feedback from students and alumni alike, these programs will continue into the next academic year as a way to support current students’ career development and engage local alumni. IOP staff continue to look for ways to engage alumni in all aspects of IOP programming, including serving as moderators for speaker series events, hosts for summer interns, mentors for civic engagement groups, and more.

In May 2019, the committee launched an updated alumni survey designed to continue to monitor alumni locations, careers, and continuing education as well as their level of civic engagement. This survey will become an annual staple of the IOP’s alumni efforts to help evaluate the effectiveness of the IOP in achieving its mission of getting students involved and engaged in public service.

The data team on the alumni committee is also working on a process for graduating students to help transition them to the broader alumni community. This will also include an exit survey which will provide IOP staff with feedback on how students plan to continue to engage with politics and public service after leaving the university.

WHAT’S NEXT?
This summer, the alumni committee will host social events for summer interns in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and New York City to give alumni a chance to connect with current students as well as former classmates. Moving forward, the committee looks to increase the number of IOP-sponsored events across the year, as well as spreading these gatherings to more cities across the country with significant alumni presence. Former IOP fellows will also be invited to participate in these events and will serve as a way for them to continue to engage with the IOP after leaving Hyde Park.

Along with increasing the programmatic presence of alumni at the IOP, we will also work on increasing our digital alumni community to include fellowships, virtual mentoring, and job opportunities. By 2020, we hope to consistently engage 2,000 alumni via our newsletters and social media channels.
DANIEL COMEAUX, AB ’14
Harvard Kennedy School

Daniel is a Master in Public Policy candidate at the Harvard Kennedy School. Prior to HKS, he was an Associate at the Civic Consulting Alliance in Chicago. While at CCA, he worked closely with public sector leaders in the Chicago region to address pressing problems of urban government, such as transportation, pension reform, and gun violence.

MO GREEN, AB ’14
Cook County State’s Attorney Office

As Director of Community Engagement, Mo directs all county-wide outreach for the county’s second-largest prosecutors office. This predominantly entails coordinating cross-departmentally to ensure office initiatives, official policies and high priority cases are being effectively communicated to Cook County constituents. Mo also serves as a primary point of contact for all office relationships with elected officials, government agencies, and community stakeholders.

LESLIE GLOTZER, AB ’15
Thrive Chicago

Leslie joined Thrive Chicago in July 2017 as Special Projects Associate. Thrive creates collaborative networks of people and data that accelerate innovation for Chicago’s youth. In this role, Leslie facilitates the development of multi-sector collective initiatives in Thrive’s postsecondary and youth employment portfolios.

CAROLINE HUTTON, AB ’18
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant

Caroline teaches English, History, and Art at a bilingual high school in Madrid, Spain, on a Fulbright grant, while using her extra time to engage in meaningful cultural exchange, including volunteer tutoring at a local NGO and assisting in a STEM extracurricular program at the Embassy’s American Space Madrid.
› DAKE KANG, AB’16
› Associated Press

Dake is a journalist for the Associated Press and has been based in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Thailand, and now China. He was posted across Trump Tower on Election Day in 2016, gained access to a massive temple complex raided by the Thai government, and unearthed the neo-Nazi past of a man who drove a car into protestors in Charlottesville in 2017. Dake reports on technology and politics in video and print, and digs through data and corporate records for enterprise stories.

› HALEIGH MILLER, AB’16
› Civis Analytics

Haleigh manages onboarding new clients and launching new software implementation projects, focusing primarily on non-profit and government clients, but also working on political and commercial verticals. Haleigh collaborates with clients to identify and define their project objectives and key performance indicators, leading strategic trainings to guide client success, configuring Civis’ pre-built solutions, project managing cross-functional teams, and working with the data science teams to deliver custom work.

› GABRIELA LASTRES, AB’16
› Texas Organizing Project

With the Texas Organizing Project, Gabi does community education for immigrants and organizes immigrant communities to work for local policy changes. Alongside the community leaders she organizes, Gabi is working with the city of Houston and Harris County to ensure that immigrants are protected through the creation of municipal IDs, the establishment of an Immigrant Legal Defense Fund, and the expansion of resources available to immigrants.

› ROBIN YE, AB’16
› Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Robin is the Political Director at APANO, an Oregon statewide grassroots advocacy organization uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders for political power, overseeing APANO’s 501c4 political program and legislative efforts. In his role, he provides political and strategic direction, and directs electoral organizing and year-round civic engagement efforts with our membership, staff, and partners.

› MAIA O’MEARA, AB’16
› Child Trends

At Child Trends, Maia manages child welfare databases and conducts surveys of young people in the foster care system. Maia analyzes this data and summarizes them in order to make child welfare data accessible to state governments, foundations, caseworkers, and young people in a way that empowers them to advocate for better policy at the local, state, and national level.
LEADERSHIP

Staff Bios

DAVID AXELROD
INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

David is a veteran of American politics and journalism and the former chief strategist and senior advisor to President Barack Obama. He currently serves as director of the University of Chicago's non-partisan Institute of Politics; senior political commentator for CNN; and host of The Axe Files, a top-rated podcast jointly produced by CNN and his institute. Axelrod, a former political writer for the Chicago Tribune and, later, media strategist for 150 state, local and national political campaigns, is also the author of The New York Times best-selling memoir, Believer: My Forty Years in Politics.

GRETCHEN CROSBY SIMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gretchen joined the IOP as Executive Director in January 2018. She has served in a variety of executive and strategy roles in the policy, politics, philanthropy, nonprofit, academic, and impact investing sectors. Most recently, she was a Director at London-based Social Finance UK, where she led policy efforts and the firm's education practice. Until 2014, Gretchen was chief program executive at The Joyce Foundation, a private foundation in Chicago with assets of $900 million and $40 million in annual grants. Gretchen has also worked at the Council on Foreign Relations, CNN, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and as a policy adviser to presidential candidate Bill Bradley. She holds PhD and MA degrees in political science from Stanford University and a BA in government from Harvard University.

KATRINA MERTENS
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS & BUDGET

Katrina joined the IOP in the fall of 2012. As Director of Operations and Budget, Katrina manages the IOP's overall budget, personnel matters, and facilities operations under the guidance of the IOP's Director and Executive Director. Prior to joining the Institute, Katrina worked at the Illinois State Board of Education while she was completing an MA in counseling from Roosevelt University. After earning a BS in criminal justice and urban studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2005, Katrina worked in the narcotics unit of the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and moved to Chicago in 2008.

MATT JAFFE
DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS

For the past five years, Matt has been the Institute's Communications Director, managing all video and written content at the IOP, including “The Axe Files” podcast. From August 2017 thru December 2017 he served as served as the Institute's Interim Executive Director. Prior to joining the IOP, he covered national politics for eight years as a reporter and producer for ABC News, winning an Emmy Award in 2009 and a Peabody Award in 2013. Initially based in the network's Washington, D.C., bureau, he was an embedded reporter with the 2008 campaign of then vice-presidential candidate Joe Biden. After the campaign, he covered finance and the federal response to the nation's economic crisis. In 2010, he was named ABC News’ digital reporter covering the U.S. Senate. The following year, Matthew covered the Republican presidential primary for both ABC News and Univision. In 2012, Matthew moved to ABC's Chicago bureau, covering stories such as Hurricane Sandy, the Boston Marathon bombing, and the election of Pope Francis.
CHRISTINE HURLEY
DIRECTOR, SPEAKER SERIES
Christine joined the IOP in February 2014. Over the past five years she worked her way up from Associate Producer to Director of the Speaker Series. In this role she oversees the content development and logistics execution for the nearly 100 Speaker Series events each year. Prior to joining the Institute, Christine was Associate Producer for “Chicago Tonight” a nightly news magazine on Chicago’s PBS. During her time on the show she was nominated for three Midwest Emmy Awards. Christine grew up in the southwest suburbs of Chicago and received her BA from Ohio Wesleyan University and MA from DePaul University.

ALICIA SAMS
DIRECTOR, PRITZKER FELLOWS PROGRAM
Alicia has managed the Pritzker Fellows program since spring quarter 2017, and prior to that was Speaker Series director. Alicia Sams comes to the IOP with over 20 years of experience producing and directing award-winning documentaries and feature films for television and theatrical release. She has worked on films covering politics and public affairs, the arts, and cultural history for distributors including HBO, Amazon, IFC, PBS, AMC, Sony Pictures Classics, Sundance Channel, Koch-Lorber, and BBC. From 2006 to 2008, she chronicled the presidential campaign of then-Senator Barack Obama for HBO, a journey depicted in the Emmy Award-winning film “By the People: The Election of Barack Obama.” A frequent panelist and lecturer at festivals, colleges and universities around the country, Alicia is a native of Washington, D.C. and holds a BA in English from Harvard University.

PURVI PATEL
DIRECTOR, CIVIC & CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT
Purvi joined the IOP in February 2019 as the Director of Civic and Campus Engagement. In this role, she advises the IOP’s Civic Engagement student leadership, builds relationships with community partners, and works on civic engagement program development and strategy. Previously, Purvi worked as an administrator in diversity and student life at Washington University in St. Louis, Loyola University Maryland, and Oberlin College. Purvi is from Dallas, TX and graduated with a B.A. in History from Loyola University Chicago, and a M.A. in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University.

MELISSA NAVAS, MPP ’19
DIRECTOR, CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Melissa joined the IOP in January 2019 as Director of Career Development. Most recently, Melissa was deputy communications director for Multnomah County, Oregon’s most populous county. Previously, Melissa served as press secretary to current Oregon Governor Kate Brown and her predecessor John Kitzhaber. Melissa began her career as a newspaper journalist at The Oregonian writing about K-12 education and health. While at the newspaper, she investigated Oregon teachers’ sexual misconduct of students and the state’s backlog of educator discipline cases, which led to changes in state law and award recognition from the Society of Professional Journalists, The Press Club of Atlantic City and Education Writers Association for the investigation. She is a graduate of Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Calif. and the University of Nevada, Reno.

ASHLEY JORN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PRITZKER FELLOWS PROGRAM
Ashley joined the Institute in September 2015 as the Program Coordinator, working on logistics for the Fellows and Speaker Series teams. She now serves as the Assistant Director of the Fellows Program, a position she’s held since September 2017. In this role, Ashley manages all logistics for the program. She graduated from DePaul University with a B.A. in history. Prior to joining the IOP, Ashley worked in education as a teacher, tutor and coach.
ZANE MAXWELL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Zane has been a member of the communications team at the IOP for the past four years and was promoted to Assistant Director of Digital Communications in 2018. In this role he oversees the creation and implementation of communications materials across all program areas at the IOP. He also serves a producer on the Axe Files, recording and editing episodes as well as working with outside partners to create and promote each show. Prior to his time at the IOP, Zane worked with the Heartland Alliance Policy and Advocacy division on their communications team. He graduated in 2013 with a BA in Politics from Willamette University.

JAKE HUFF
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, SPEAKER SERIES

Since July 2017, Jake has worked with the Speaker Series team to develop the overall content and focus of IOP events, conducting research for potential programs and booking a variety of guests. He also manages off-the-record student sessions, in which many of our guests participate. Before joining the IOP team, Jake graduated with a BA in English from Indiana University, where he served as an event planner for both the Arts and Humanities Council and the Hutton Honors College. He spent three years as a writer and technical director for the University Twits sketch comedy group, overseeing their political satire.

SCOTT DAVIS
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Scott joined the Career Development team at Institute of Politics in January 2018 where he coordinates with the IOP’s academic year and summer internship programs, connecting students and organizations to provide substantive professional experiences for UChicago students. He also supports students’ career development through workshops, advising, treks, and mentoring relationships, and works closely with the IOP’s growing alumni community. Prior to the IOP, he worked at EAB, a higher education research firm in Washington, D.C. and Michigan State University’s Office of Admissions, overseeing the university’s orientation program and prospective student tours. Scott graduated from Michigan State with degrees in International Relations and Political Theory.

JENNIFER HUANG
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Jenny joined the Institute of Politics in October 2017 as the Civic Engagement Program Coordinator. In this role, she advises the IOP’s Civic Engagement student leadership, builds relationships with community partners, and works with Purvi Patel on CE program development. Previously, Jenny worked as a policy and research assistant for South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, an intern for the Indiana University Office of the President, and an NSF Research Fellow at the Santa Fe Institute. She studied mathematics, literature, and anthropology at Indiana University.

AMANI ZARA
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Amani joined the IOP team in June of 2018 as a Digital Communications Specialist. In this role, she manages the IOP’s website, social media platforms, newsletters, and all other digital material. Additionally, she works to widen the IOP’s outreach efforts and strengthen community engagement. Prior to joining the IOP, Amani worked as a Press/Communications Intern at Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s Office, as well as a Communications Intern at the Chicago Department of Public Health. A Chicago native, Amani graduated with a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2018.
LEADERSHIP
Organizational Chart

INSTITUTE DIRECTOR
David Axelrod

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gretchen Crosby Sims

DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS & BUDGET
Katrina Mertens

DIRECTOR, FELLOWS PROGRAM
Alicia Sams

DIRECTOR, CIVIC & CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT
Purvi Patel

DIRECTOR, CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Melissa Navas

DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS
Matthew Jaffe

DIRECTOR, SPEAKER SERIES
Christine Hurley

ASSIST. DIRECTOR, FELLOWS PROGRAM
Ashley Jorn

ASSIST. DIRECTOR, DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS
Zane Maxwell

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, SPEAKER SERIES
Jake Huff

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Jennifer Huang

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CAREER DEV.
Scott Davis

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Amani Zara

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The IOP Advisory Board consists of an esteemed and diverse group of political professionals from across the spectrum of public service. Members meet annually to provide critical insight and support the IOP in key areas including 1) recruiting of fellows; 2) outreach to elected and government officials, political operatives, journalists and others to participate in our Speaker Series and other Institute-sponsored events; 3) arrangement of rewarding internship opportunities; and 4) strategic planning advice.

**LEADERSHIP**

**Board of Advisors**

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**JOAQUÍN CASTRO**
Member, U.S. Congress (D-TX)

**STEPHANIE CUTTER**
Partner, Precision Strategies
Former Deputy Campaign Manager for Barack Obama

**BOB DOLD**
Former Member, U.S. Congress (R-IL)

**ROBERT GIBBS**
Executive Vice President and Global Chief Communications Officer, McDonalds
Former White House Press Secretary

**ED GILLESPIE**
Chairman, SVC Public Affairs
Former RNC Chairman

**JENNIFER GRANHOLM**
Professor, University of California Berkeley’s Goldman School
Former Governor of Michigan

**LARRY GRISOLANO**
Partner & CEO, AKPD Message and Media

**DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN**
Biographer, Historian, and Political Commentator

**BILL KRISTOL**
Founder and Editor of The Weekly Standard

**RAY LAHOOD**
Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation

**ISAAC LEE**
Executive Chairman, Exile Content Studio

**MICHAEL MORELL**
CBS News National Security Contributor
Former Acting Director & Deputy Director, CIA

**MIKE MURPHY**
Co-director, USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future
Republican Strategist

**SHAILAGH MURRAY**
Executive Vice President for Public Affairs, Columbia University
Former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama

**BETH MYERS**
Co-founder, The Shawmut Group
Former Campaign Manager for Mitt Romney

**PENNY PRITZKER**
Founder and Chairman, PSP Partners
Former Commerce Secretary

**DEVAL PATRICK**
Managing Director, Bain Capital Double Impact
Former Governor of Massachusetts

**DARREN REISBERG**
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Deputy Provost of the University of Chicago

**BRET STEPHENS**
Op-Ed Columnist at the New York Times

**NEERA TANDEN**
President, The Center for American Progress

**AMY WALTER**
National Editor of The Cook Political Report

**HOWARD WOLFSON**
Education Program Lead, Bloomberg Philanthropies
In addition to fulfilling its standing commitment to provide input to staff on all manner of issues at the IOP, this year’s Student Advisory Board (SAB) focused its efforts on making the IOP an ever more welcoming, inclusive, and accessible institution for students.

As a central part of that effort, the SAB launched the IOP’s Student Association with a host of new social events and a Facebook group designed to connect students to one another, to IOP staff members, and to useful resources. Over the course of the year, the SAB has hosted presidential town-hall viewing parties, documentary film screenings, a trivia night, and inaugurated traditions like our Student Association dinners and a quarterly Pub Night with Fellows in the aims of making the IOP more of a home and a hub for students on campus.

Separately, the SAB worked with staff to strengthen, improve, and make more transparent IOP policies—particularly those related to student applications for internal positions—to ensure that all interested students can and do find meaningful pathways for engagement at the IOP. In pursuit of the same goal, the SAB continued the practice of hosting office hours for interested students to chat and organized information sessions over the course of the year to get new students involved in politics and public service at the IOP.

Finally, the SAB worked towards highlighting and incorporating underrepresented forms of political engagement—like activism and community organizing—within all facets of IOP programming.