



UChicago  
INSTITUTE  
OF POLITICS

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
**INSTITUTE  
OF POLITICS**



# Annual Report 2021-22

Former U.S. President Barack Obama speaks during the Disinformation and the Erosion of Democracy conference

## **Table of Contents**

2 · Executive Summary
4 · Disinformation Conference
10 · Speaker Series
26 · Pritzker Fellows Program
34 · Civic Engagement
40 · Career Development
46 · Special Programs
46 · Borderland Trek
47 · D.C. Career Trek
48 · Bridging the Divide
49 · UChiVotes
50 · Working with Incarcerated Populations
51 · Ideathon
52 · Project Battleground
54 · Alumni Spotlights
56 · Student Advisory Board
58 · IOP Staff
60 · Board of Advisors



# Inspiring thought. Empowering action.

The 2021-22 academic year was a special year for the University of Chicago Institute of Politics (IOP). We welcomed students back into the IOP house after nearly two years of remote and hybrid programming brought on by the pandemic.

Our community of students, campus partners, and Hyde Park neighbors also welcomed us with their passion and energy at our seminars, workshops, treks and public events.

The return to a full complement of programming served as a reminder of the rare place the Institute of Politics occupies at the University of Chicago and in America's higher education landscape – as a home for civil discourse and a vibrant hub where students explore pathways to public engagement and public service.

The Institute of Politics does this through four main programs:

**The Career Development Program** offers students hands-on opportunities to create meaningful impact through more than 250 paid internships across the country and around the globe each year across a wide range of fields related to politics and public service.

**The Civic Engagement Program** mobilizes student engagement through its leadership development groups in which our students explore ways to participate in civic life.

**The Pritzker Fellows Program** connects students with leading practitioners from politics, public service, government, journalism, and advocacy organizations. Fellows provide invaluable lessons, insights, and mentorship through small-group discussions and office hours.

**The Speaker Series** hosts hundreds of prominent figures from across the ideological spectrum each year, making the IOP a vital center for earnest debate and discussion about the most important issues of our day.

With the IOP's 10-year anniversary approaching, IOP staff engaged in group reflection that resulted in a revamp of its mission statement; a commitment to incorporating principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion into its programming; and an examination centered on how to respond at a time when democracy in the U.S. and across the globe is under assault.

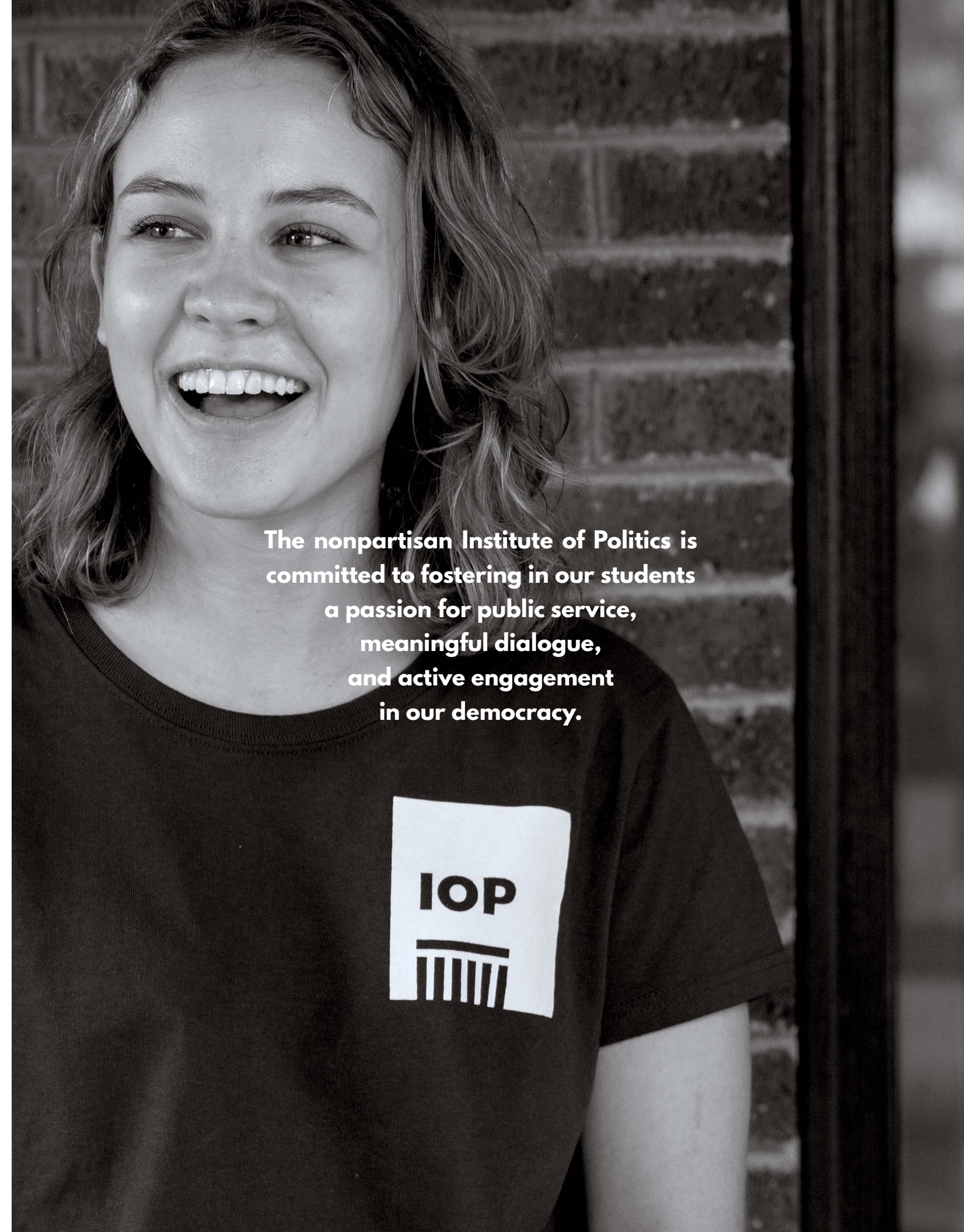
Throughout the year, IOP programming centered on combating extreme polarization, bridging divides, strengthening journalism, increasing voter registration and turnout, and advocating for marginalized groups.

During the Spring Quarter, the IOP and *The Atlantic* co-hosted "Disinformation and the Erosion of Democracy," a groundbreaking three-day event where policymakers, cybersecurity experts, tech executives, and journalists explored the organized proliferation of disinformation and discussed how to slow its spread.

The challenges we face as a nation and around the world magnify how vital our young people are to the future of democracy and underscore the mission of the Institute of Politics.

Thank you to the University of Chicago, the Board of Advisors and community partners. Above all, thank you to the students whose energy, talent, and passion inspire us every day. On the pages that follow, The Institute of Politics is pleased to share some highlights of the 2021-22 academic year.

**The nonpartisan Institute of Politics is committed to fostering in our students a passion for public service, meaningful dialogue, and active engagement in our democracy.**







Former Pritzker Fellow and U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX), left, speaks as U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) looks on

## Disinformation Conference

In a polarized political and media environment, basic facts are treated as subjective and conspiracy theories flourish. The easy-to-abuse tools and perverse incentives of social media have enabled the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation and have been seized upon by malign actors – foreign and domestic – to inflame divisions and promote distrust in our most fundamental democratic institutions.

This crisis is not unique to the United States. Organized manipulation of social media is growing exponentially across the world – a recent study estimates that the number of countries targeted by disinformation campaigns nearly doubles each year. While social media has spawned democratic movements, it also has become a tool of choice among autocrats seeking to control the public narrative and enforce their versions of events.

With democracies across the globe under assault, The University of Chicago's nonpartisan Institute of Politics and *The Atlantic* hosted Disinformation and the Erosion of Democracy, a groundbreaking three-day event that explored the organized spread of disinformation. Through 13 panels and three breakout sessions, speakers discussed the roots and scope of the problem, the next-generation threats posed by new technological advances, and the tools and policies required to neutralize them.

The conference featured 43 speakers including former President of the United States Barack Obama; Nobel Prize-winning journalist Maria Ressa; Chris Krebs, former Director of Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); U.S. Rep. Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL); U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI); and *The New York Times*' Kara Swisher.

Over 7,000 people from across the globe applied to attend the conference – either virtually or in person. Each of the 600 people who participated in person over the course of the three days were hand-selected by IOP staff and were experts in the fields of computer science & engineering, cybersecurity, journalism, and policymaking. Some professional backgrounds of the attendees include U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Apple, Google, Meta, U.S. Department of Defense, and the Illinois Board of Elections.

The recordings of the sessions have garnered 70,000+ views and 2,800 people joined us virtually in real-time on our online conference platform.

The conference distilled for our audiences and panelists how insidious disinformation has become in our everyday lives, the incentives that propel it forward, and the bad actors who benefit from it. Despite the stark tone of many of the discussions, the conference ended on a hopeful note as panelists discussed solutions to counter disinformation in the name of improving national security, fostering truthfulness on social media, and tamping down some of the darker corners of the internet.

# DIS INFOR MATION AND THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACY



Disinformation Conference  
List of Events

Welcome and Remarks from Maria Ressa



Discussion with Maria Ressa



Defending Free Speech in the Mobile Internet Age



Targeted by Lies:  
How Disinformation Spurs Political Violence



Anne Applebaum in Conversation with David Axelrod



A keynote conversation with former President Barack Obama moderated by Jeffrey Goldberg



Taming the Wild, Wild Web



Countering Disinformation's Threat to National Security



Politics as Usual or an Insidious Attack on Our Democracy?



What Happens When We Can't Tell What's Real?



Imagining a Better Social Media





Disinformation Conference

List of Events

How Powerful Are Algorithms Really?



Camille François, Columbia University (left); Karrie Karahalios, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (center); Casey Newton, Platformer News (right)

How Media Platforms Shape Consumer Realities



Stephen Hayes, The Dispatch; Lauren Williams, Capital B; Brian Stelter, CNN; Jim Rutenberg, The New York Times (from left to right)

How Conspiracy Theories Capture the Mind



Abbie Richards, TikTok Misinformation and Extremism Researcher; Jacquelyn Mason, Media Democracy Fund; Diane Benscoter, Antidote; Ellen Cushing, The Atlantic (from left to right)

How Natural-Language Processing Will Change Propaganda



Adrienne LaFrance, The Atlantic (left); Chenhao Tan, the University of Chicago (center); Stephen Marche, author (right)

The Internet Is Rotting



Ellen Cushing, The Atlantic (left) in conversation with Jason Scott, textfiles.com (right) and Jonathan Zittrain, Harvard Law (on screen)

Disinformation and the Subversion of Elections



Stephen Richer, Maricopa County Recorder (left); Barton Gellman, The Atlantic; Christopher Krebs, former director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (right); Lauren Underwood, U.S. Representative (D-IL), (on screen)



Scenes from the Disinformation and the Erosion of Democracy conference





Huma Abedin, former State Department Deputy Chief of Staff to Sec. Hillary Clinton discusses her memoir with students

## Speaker Series

Each year, the IOP hosts dozens of Speaker Series events, ranging from large-scale events with hundreds in attendance to more intimate, seminar-style discussions geared exclusively toward students. Through the Speaker Series, our students and the general public are provided direct contact with prominent guests spanning a vast spectrum of ideological, professional, and geographical backgrounds, including elected officials, activists, authors, military leaders, and other key practitioners in politics and public service. These guests share their unique insights on domestic and international issues, debate the most important questions facing our world, and answer unfiltered questions from our diverse audiences.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

At the start of this academic year, the Speaker Series team welcomed a return to in-person events for the first time since March 2020. The return to large-scale public events was augmented by new opportunities to host hybrid events, welcoming guests via Zoom from around the world to join our panels who would not have otherwise been available. The return to in-person programming also brought with it new audiences, including first- and second-year students who had never attended an IOP event because of the pandemic and members of the Hyde Park and surrounding communities, many of them new faces participating in IOP events for the first time.

The Speaker Series continued its commitment to host events examining the pressing issues of the day, including gun violence and policing, the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, the war in Ukraine, redistricting, and elections in the U.S. and around the world. The IOP also convened a groundbreaking multi-day conference interrogating disinformation and the risk it poses to democracies around the globe.

In February, key members of former President Barack Obama's campaign reconvened to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the start of his historic race. In April, the Speaker Series hosted several climate

### By the Numbers

1,557  
Student Attendees

1,099  
Unique Student Attendees

1,754  
General Attendees

1,060  
Unique General Attendees

change-focused events which included a community cleanup on the UChicago campus. In May, the Speaker Series hosted "Journalism Week" where journalists from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* held hands-on workshops on newsgathering, in-depth reporting, the Freedom of Information Act, and a host of journalism-related topics.

Throughout the academic year, the IOP hosted several notable guests, including Washington Gov. Jay Inslee; former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie; U.S. Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Todd Young (R-IN), and Jon Tester (D-MT); U.S. Reps. Karen Bass (D-CA), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), and Adam Schiff (D-CA); U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg; U.S. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco; former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe; General Stanley McChrystal; and former White House press secretary Jen Psaki. The hybrid format allowed our audiences to hear from prominent figures from across the globe, including former United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown and other guests participating virtually from Puerto Rico, France, and elsewhere.



# In Their Own Words

Joy Kayode, MPP '22



Very seldom are there situations, occurrences, or life-changing moments in my life that I've looked back on and realized that things turned out exactly how I planned or exactly how I envisaged the situation unfolding. I can emphatically say that being a student at the University of Chicago and therefore having the opportunity to become intimately involved with the Institute of Politics has been the most consequential experience throughout my graduate studies.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I didn't have time to feel skeptical about "receiving the full UChicago experience" because even before the Fall Quarter started, the IOP kicked off its immensely robust programming. The first Speaker Series event that I attended was "How 9/11 Changed America and the World" with former White House Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes. I felt that I was in a direct conversation with Mr. Rhodes about his journey that led him to such a prominent, public-facing, and often strenuous career in public service, diplomacy, and national security.

I prematurely figured this was a one-off event – I had never been more wrong in my life! As I started my quantitatively intense Master of Public Policy coursework, I often needed to find solace in my comfort zone, domestic/global politics, and international affairs.

In every Speakers Series event I attended, it seemed that the conversation and parting words that each speaker left us with, regardless of political party, position, age, race, or gender, were tailored directly towards a challenge that I was facing in those moments. Senator Mitt Romney daring us to stand up for the ideals and principles that we believe in, even if that entailed standing toe-to-toe with opposition, compelled me to work more diligently to advocate for access to resources that would benefit underrepresented and often marginalized students at the University. Though from opposing sides of the American political spectrum, I received his advice and acknowledged that it could be universally applied to any aspect of my life while at UChicago and after I graduate.

In returning to campus, the IOP continued its dynamic programming, and this made readjusting to in-person campus life seamless. The most impactful in-person experience was a student-only session with Huma Abedin. Speaking with her in an intimate setting provided a direct opportunity to ask more personally tailored questions about how to navigate and blend our professional lives with our personal identities. As a first-generation woman of color, it was refreshing to hear her unabridged insights and self-reflection especially as we enter a time in our society where the push and actualization of women's leadership are increasing daily.

The IOP's commitment to bringing speakers from all walks of life significantly underscores the commitment that IOP founding and current members have to championing diverse representation and equipping university students with concrete examples of what our futures may look like if we study hard, work harder, and hold true to our aspirations. For that alone, I am eternally grateful for the impact that the Institute of Politics has had on my time at the University of Chicago.

# Calendar of Events

Fall Quarter 2021

## Meet the Fall 2021 Pritzker Fellows



(Clockwise from top left) with Catherine Bertini, moderator David Axelrod, Janice Jackson, Tony Fabrizio, Lotfullah Najafizada, Mitch Landrieu, Ertharin Cousin, and Russell Moore (center)

## Democracy and the Battle Over Voting Rights



Astead Herndon, *The New York Times* (left); Nsé Ufot, *The New Georgia Project* (center); Sean Morales-Doyle, Brennan Center for Justice (right); and Ron Brownstein, CNN and *The Atlantic* (not pictured)

## How 9/11 Changed America and the World



Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*; Michael Morell, former Acting Director of the CIA; Farah Pandith, former State Department Special Representative to Muslim Communities; and Ben Rhodes, Former White House Deputy National Security Advisor (left to right)

## Washington Post Reporter Robert Costa



with David Axelrod (left)

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



Zeenat Rahman (left) in conversation with Lauren Baer, Arena

## Unpacking Gun Violence in Chicago



Annie Sweeney, *The Chicago Tribune*; Roseanna Ander, UChicago Crime Lab and Education Lab; Robin Kelly, U.S. Representative (D-IL); Ed Sullivan, former State Representative (R-IL) (from left to right)



# Calendar of Events

## Fall Quarter 2021

Representative Jesús (Chuy) García



Faith and Democracy:  
The Role of Religion in American Politics



Is the Democratic Party in Disarray?



Permanent Emergency:  
Gov. Jay Inslee on Fighting Climate Change



Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)  
on Leadership and Politics



Drawing Districts: It's Not Just for the Hunger Games



A Conversation with UChicago President  
Paul Alivisatos



Speaker McCarthy?  
Looking Ahead to the 2022 Midterm



America's Pivot: Afghanistan to East Asia



Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA)  
and Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)



Autism and Disabilities in America:  
A Reporter's First-Hand Perspective



Progressive Politics with Rep. Pramila Jayapal





# Calendar of Events

## Fall Quarter 2021

Huma Abedin on her Memoir  
“BOTH/AND: A Life in Many Worlds”



Eyewitness to History: Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence



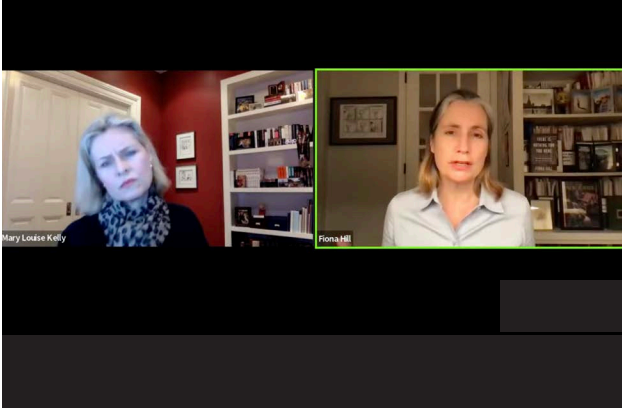
Playbook for Republicans:  
Former Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ)



The Rising Power of the Asian American Community in Politics



“There is Nothing for you Here”: Fiona Hill in Conversation with NPR’s Mary Louise Kelly



General Stanley McChrystal on Risk and Challenges of Leadership



# Calendar of Events

## Winter Quarter 2022

Protecting American Democracy:  
Lessons from the Capitol Riot



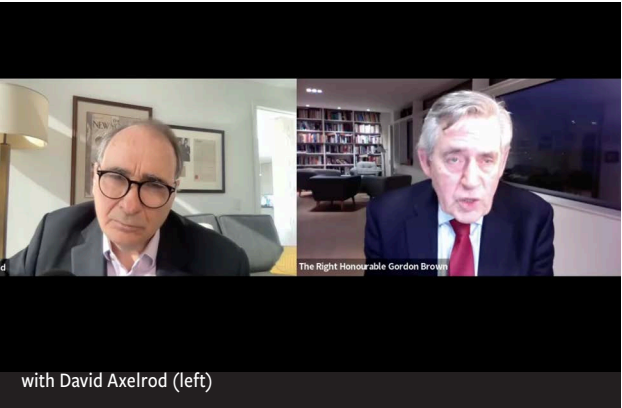
Meet the Winter 2022 Pritzker Fellows



Year One of the Biden Administration



The Axe Files: Former United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown



The Democrats’ Rural Problem



What is the Future of Puerto Rico’s Political Status?





# Calendar of Events

## Winter Quarter 2022

### Yes We Can: The Legacy of the Obama Campaign



### Chicago Style: Passing Police Reform in Illinois



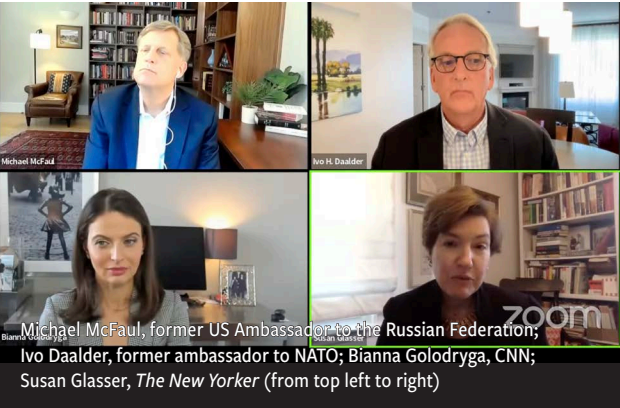
### IPP: A Conversation with the British Ambassador to Sweden: HMA Judith Gough



### U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-IN) in Conversation with David Axelrod



### Kremlin’s Power Play: What’s Next for Ukraine?



### Illinois’ Next Generation of Black Leaders



### 21st Century Safety: Balancing Security with Civil Rights



### The Human Costs of U.S. Immigration Policy at the Southern Border



### Towards a Thriving Multi-Racial Democracy: Lessons from a Lifetime Working in Racial Equity



### 2022: America’s Political Pendulum



### Democracy on the Ballot in the U.S. and Beyond





# Calendar of Events

## Spring Quarter 2022

Meet the Spring 2022 Pritzker Fellows



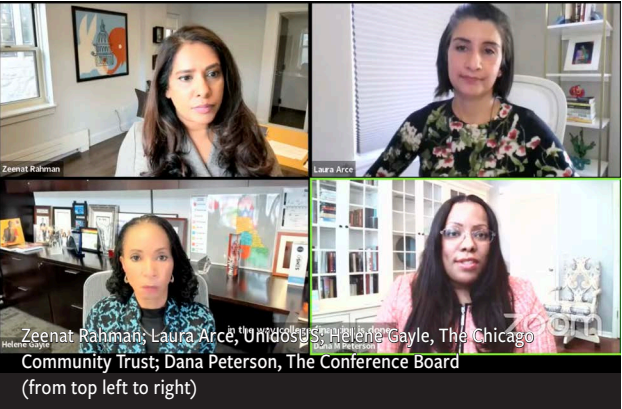
Farm to Fable?



Addressing Climate Change in Illinois



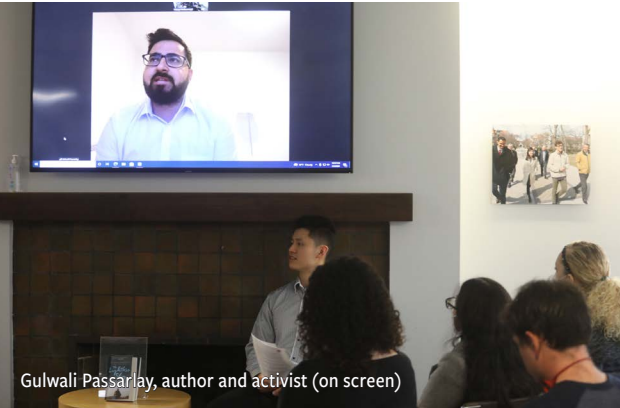
Mind the Gap:  
Addressing Racial Inequities in American Wealth



La Campagne: The French Presidential Election



The Journey of an Afghan Refugee:  
Author and Activist Gulwali Passarlay



The Fire This Time: City Mayors Grapple with  
Climate Change Costs to Their Communities



Democracy and Economic Development  
in Latin America



Serving Together:  
The Bridge Between the Veterans and Civilians



How the Sausage Gets Made:  
Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



America's New Normal:  
One Doctor's Take on the Pandemic



The Legacy of Chicago Mayor Harold Washington





# Calendar of Events

## Spring Quarter 2022

Iftar at the IOP



Bridges, Broadband and Babies:  
Inside Pete Buttigieg’s First Year in Washington



Does Journalism Still Matter?



Dinner and Digging



An Evening of Comedy with Al Franken



Wither Twitter? Kara Swisher and Friends Weigh In



IPP: Careers in Foreign Policy - an International  
Panel Session



Trump, Biden, and the Battle for America’s Future



The IOP and the Chicago Humanities Festival Present  
Building and Maintaining Diverse Democracies



Justice in the Spotlight



Chicago Style:  
Combating Maternal Health Disparities



IPP: The United Nations in Times of Turmoil





# Calendar of Events

## Spring Quarter 2022

### Rebuilding Trust and Equity in Public Health: A Conversation with Dr. Ngozi Ezike and Dr. Thomas Fisher



Dr. Thomas Fisher, UChicago Medicine Physician and Author (left); Dr. Ngozi Ezike, former Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (right)

### Notes from the Frying Pan to the Fire



Former White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki

### Who Decides: A Preview of Shifting Voter Power in the Midterms



David Axelrod; Amy Walter, *The Cook Political Report* and Institute of Politics Board of Advisors member; Sarah Longwell, Republican strategist and Pritzker Fellow; Heidi Heitkamp, former U.S. Senator and Institute of Politics Board of Advisors member (from left to right)

### Preparing for a Post-Roe v Wade America



Greer Donley, University of Pittsburgh Law School; Jennifer Steinhauer, University of Chicago Institute of Politics; Diana Greene Foster, demographer; Tresa Undem, pollster (from left to right)

### How We Get to Vote



Jamie Raskin, U.S. Representative (D-MD) (left); Eric Holder, former U.S. Attorney General (right)

### Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts: Politics, Policy and Power



Pete Ricketts, Governor of Nebraska (left); Jeff Zeleny, chief national affairs correspondent for CNN (right)



Former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie discusses the future of the Republican party with IOP Director David Axelrod (left)





GOP Strategist and Winter Quarter Pritzker Fellow Mark Campbell discusses the road ahead for the GOP in 2022 and 2024

# Pritzker Fellows

In keeping with our conviction that a healthy democracy requires open, honest discussion and inquiry, the Pritzker Fellows program is dedicated to providing students with close, unfiltered engagement with policymakers, journalists, advocates, and other skilled practitioners of diverse views and backgrounds. Our intimate seminars and one-on-one office hours allow students to build meaningful and enduring relationships with difference-makers from across political and ideological spectrums. In addition to bringing high-profile and distinguished public service practitioners to campus, the Pritzker Fellows program also identifies public servants on the rise, curating a balanced cohort of individuals each quarter whose insights expand student horizons, challenge their assumptions, and help them to find their own pathways into public service.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

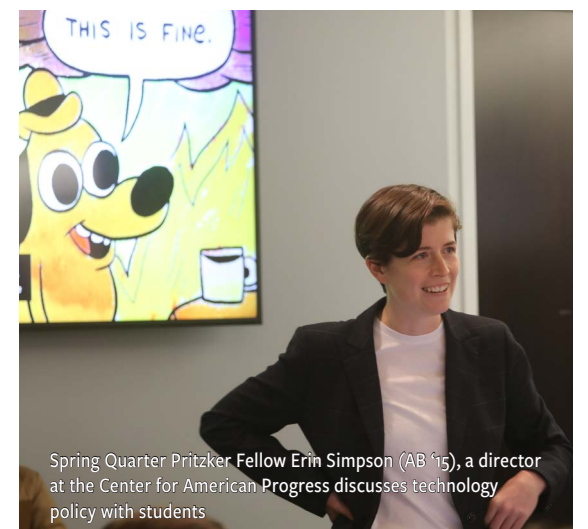
The IOP hosted 18 Pritzker Fellows this academic year representing diverse disciplines, ideologies, and regions, including some new areas of interest, such as the intersection of evangelical Christianity and politics. Pritzker Fellows tackled everything from the politics of hunger to socioeconomic class and rural politics; the challenges to and strategies for renewing our democracy through movement politics; and governing a large city while balancing competing demographic and economic interests. Students also had the opportunity to learn about managing through crisis from the very recent experiences of Pritzker Fellows who led San Juan, Puerto Rico through Hurricane Maria, and who ran Chicago's public schools through the pandemic. And they kicked the tires on a range of progressive policy solutions and worked to create a poll on disinformation during the Spring Quarter.

A highlight of our fall program was the arrival of Afghan journalist Lotfullah Najafizada in Chicago who shared the achievements and failures of civil society in Afghanistan over the last 20 years, as well as first-hand accounts of the Taliban takeover. The winter cohort, after a virtual start, developed tight bonds with each other and the students – one highlight of the Winter Quarter was the connection made

“*The value of having the IOP here at the University of Chicago is when you think about American life, probably the most polarizing thing is politics, and yet the IOP is setting the pace for politics to be a place for genuine intellectual investigation and de-polarization...that's sadly more unusual than it should be in American culture right now ... The IOP has found a model here for a kind of civic engagement and education that isn't the lowest common denominator. Where people really are engaging with ideas in a way that is not threatening and not defensive.*”

**Russell Moore**

Public theologian and director of the Public Theology Project at Christianity Today and Fall Quarter Pritzker Fellow



Spring Quarter Pritzker Fellow Erin Simpson (AB '15), a director at the Center for American Progress discusses technology policy with students



between first-year student Elisabeth Snyder, a speechwriter on the Terry McAuliffe campaign, and Pritzker Fellow Mark Campbell, campaign manager for Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. Their candid back-and-forth discussion took students behind the scenes of the Virginia gubernatorial race. Over spring break, former Pritzker Fellow Alfredo Corchado helped the IOP plan a student trek to El Paso to explore issues of immigration, trade and security along the U.S.-Mexico border. During the Spring Quarter, the first IOP graduate was welcomed back as a Pritzker Fellow. Erin Simpson, AB '15 and co-founder of the IOP's TechTeam was a key member of the planning team for April's Disinformation and the Erosion of Democracy conference, launching a nationwide conversation around disinformation. Additionally, she mentored TechTeam's spring Ideathon and led seminars on socio-technical solutions to our broken information ecosystem. Also during the Spring Quarter, in partnership with IOP's Civic Engagement Program, each Pritzker Fellow participated in a "dialogue dinner" – an intimate, student-led conversation on a topic of the day that allowed for civil disagreement.

As always, Pritzker Fellows reported greatly enjoying office hours. There was a mixture of discussion topics with many students, graduate and undergraduate, seeking career advice. Not only was advice given, but connections were made and jobs and internships found through our Fellows. At least six students have found summer internships through our Fellows and several more are pending, and several graduate students have found permanent jobs either with or through by Fellows. Many more were helped with connections to people and organizations that helped them with their senior and graduate theses.

Overall, it was great to have our Pritzker Fellows back on campus and in the IOP House again – student participation in seminars and office hours was high. Lasting friendships were forged, projects were launched, lines of inquiry explored, and jobs secured. And, as always, the Pritzker Fellows found their time on campus rejuvenating and inspiring – leaving their fellowships optimistic about our students and their futures.

### By the Numbers

**2,094**  
Total Attendees

**559**  
Unique Attendees

**1,500**  
Student Meetings Offered

**492**  
Total Hours of Office Hours

*“Being able to take part in the Fellows Program across various capacities has been a rewarding experience. I’ve had the opportunity to hear from individuals of all sorts of backgrounds, especially from fields to which I’ve had less exposure. Not only have I learned about the work they do, but I’ve also enjoyed hearing from other organizations and guest speakers who are brought into seminars. As a Fellows Ambassador, I’ve been able to build upon my experience by working directly with my Fellow and introducing topics and probing questions during the series to other students. Overall, it has served as a way to learn outside of the classroom setting, which is a unique aspect of the Fellows Program.”*

**Nohely Diaz**  
MA '22

### In Their Own Words

**Amina Abouelfettouh, AB '24**



The Fellows Program has shaped not only the way I approach political discourse, but also my experience at UChicago as a whole. This program has a unique way of bringing together views from all sectors of the political spectrum into one room to provide exposure and understanding of diverse perspectives. Through discussions, ranging from campaign strategy, the preservation of U.S. democracy, polarization in media, and COVID-19, to foreign policy, climate change, and world hunger, I have been able to constantly challenge my own views. Growing up in Egypt, where such conversations are not as common, I realize the value in making political tensions approachable. Not only have I been able to tackle discomfort during discussions, through the Fellows program, but I have also had the opportunity to form one-on-one relationships with leaders who continue to impact their communities.

During the Fall Quarter, I was an ambassador for two executive directors of the United Nations World Food Programme, who served under different administrations: Catherine Bertini who was nominated by President Bush & Clinton, and Eratherin Cousin who was nominated by President Obama. My experience changed entirely the way I defined the issue of world hunger. I was able to see global hunger through the lens of climate change, gender inequality, education, and poverty; as opposed to issues of “distribution” and “supply.” Speaking to leaders who led projects in all corners of the world – the Middle East, South America, Central, and Southeast Asia – was one of the most enriching experiences for me as a student.

During the winter I was a team leader for the former Executive Director of MoveOn, Anna Galland. Our conversations revolved around the mechanisms of democracy, how we keep it functioning, and what threatens our democracy. This experience made clear the value of analyzing the health of democracies on a global scale.

Ultimately, the Fellows program has completely transformed not only my views, but also the way I engage in politics to improve the communities that surround me, both in Chicago and Egypt. Being in an environment that values discourse, whilst maintaining diversity in views, backgrounds, and cultures, is how the Fellows program has impacted my experience, as an attendee, ambassador, and team leader.



2021-22 Pritzker Fellows  
Fall Quarter 2021



**Catherine Bertini**  
Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme  
nominated by presidents Bush and Clinton



**Ertharin Cousin**  
Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme  
nominated by President Obama

Bertini and Cousin, both distinguished fellows at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, co-led their seminar: “The Politics of Hunger,” where they explored the issues that shape the politics of hunger and their impact on global food security.



**Tony Fabrizio**  
Chief pollster for President Donald Trump’s  
2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns

Fabrizio, one of the nation’s leading pollsters who has helped elect dozens of U.S. Senators, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, led the “Current State: the Politics of 2022, Polling and the Future of the GOP” seminar. He focused on the lead-up to the 2022 elections, what drives today’s GOP base, and how polling has changed for better or worse.



**Janice Jackson**  
Former chief executive officer for Chicago Public Schools

Jackson, who spent most of her life involved in Chicago Public Schools as a student, teacher, and most recently as an executive, led “The Chicago Story: Lessons from the Field” seminars where she explored public education policy in Chicago, COVID’s impact on education, and the challenges that lie ahead for U.S. public education.



**Mitch Landrieu**  
Former Mayor of New Orleans and founder of E Pluribus Unum, a nonprofit  
focused on advancing racial equity and social justice in the south

Landrieu, who also previously served six years as Louisiana’s Lieutenant Governor and 16 years as a state legislator, focused his seminars on race and politics, governing in times of crisis, and understanding how systemic racism and economic inequality impact a divided nation..



**Russell Moore**  
Public theologian and director of the Public Theology Project  
at Christianity Today

Moore, through his “Evangelical Religion in American Politics and Culture” seminars, spoke to the complicated relationship between American religion – particularly in its evangelical Protestant form – and current political and cultural landscapes.

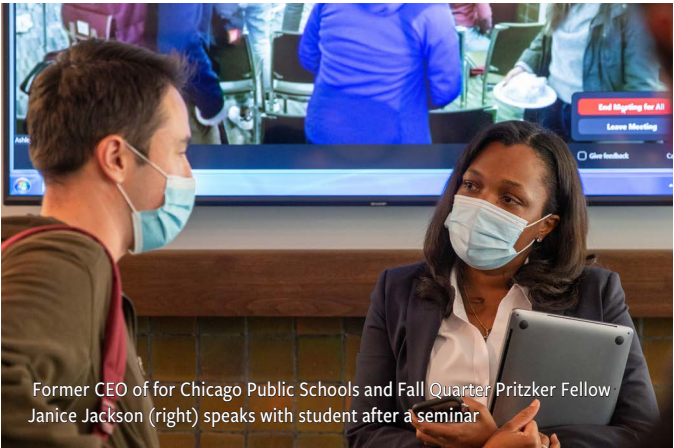


**Lotfullah Najafizada**  
Afghan journalist and director of TOLONews, Afghanistan’s first  
24-hour news and current affairs television channel

Najafizada, an award-winning journalist who oversaw the largest news operation in Afghanistan, with a newsroom of more than 100 journalists in Kabul and throughout the country, walked students through the building of civic culture over the past 20 years, the Taliban’s rise, the country’s descent into Taliban rule and its aftermath.

*The opportunity to hear from Glenn Youngkin’s campaign manager, Mark Campbell, was absolutely invaluable to me as a former staffer on his opponent, Terry McAuliffe’s campaign. Nowhere but at the IOP would I have had the opportunity to hear, off-the-record, about the rationale behind decisions on the Youngkin campaign. It helped me to reflect on the communications work I did for McAuliffe’s campaign, and helped me to realize how much we can learn from opponents and people of different political affiliations when we sit down with the objective of understanding each other better.*

**Elisabeth Snyder**  
AB ‘25





2021-22 Pritzker Fellows  
Winter Quarter 2022



**Mark Campbell**  
GOP Strategist

Campbell brought his experience as campaign manager for Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin to lead a series on the road ahead for the GOP in 2022 and 2024 using the Youngkin campaign as a case study for success.



**Carmen Yulín Cruz Soto**  
Former Mayor of San Juan, and Representative At-Large in the Puerto Rico House of Representatives

Cruz hosted conversations on a variety of issues she tackled in office, from natural disasters to financial crises, and new ideas for addressing inequality and disenfranchisement



**Joe Ferguson**  
Former Inspector General of Chicago

Ferguson led seminars about the role of inspectors general in holding governments accountable locally and nationally, including several seminars on police accountability in Chicago.



**Anna Galland**  
Former Executive Director of Move On

Galland, an organizer and strategist, led seminars focused on the challenges to democracy and the strategies the progressive movement can undertake to revitalize it.



**Sarah Smarsh**  
Journalist, and the author of “Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country in the World”

Smarsh explored socioeconomic class in America, with a lens on rural communities and the myths that surround them.

“  
*I did really have the privilege to engage with a lot of different student groups... students that were affinity cohorts, there’s a lot of activity at the IOP and engaging with those different groupings of students gave me a lot of joy, honestly, there’s just a lot of really thoughtful, earnest and I think effective work to contribute to the University community but to also try contribute to the broader community and country at large.*

**Anna Galland**  
Former Exec. Director of MoveOn and WQ Pritzker Fellow

2021-22 Pritzker Fellows  
Spring Quarter 2022



**Perry Bacon Jr.**  
Columnist for *The Washington Post* and former writer for FiveThirtyEight and MSNBC commentator

Bacon led a series of seminars examining, “The Promise and Perils of the Resurgent Left in American Politics.” With the students, he analyzed the progressive movement’s complicated relationship with the modern Democratic Party on issues including “Black Lives Matter,” defunding the police, Supreme Court expansion, and the electoral and political viability of those ideas and movements.



**Joel Benenson**  
Democratic pollster and strategist for President Barack Obama’s 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns



**Neil Newhouse**  
Republican strategist and pollster for Gov. Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign

Benenson and Newhouse, both political strategists, co-led seminars on, “The Art and Science of Polling,” bringing a nuanced approach to polling: how it can, should, and should not be used by campaigns. They also designed and executed a poll on disinformation with the participation of their students.



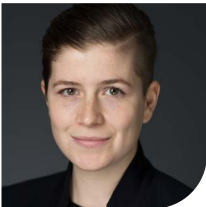
**Keisha Lance Bottoms**  
Former Atlanta Mayor and City Councilwoman

Bottoms in her “What is the Role of Government?” seminars, led discussions on the different community needs within a large city, the role of race, income, and other demographics on the perception of government role, and how to move forward from tensions that can impede progress. Her seminars also explored leadership and the pressures of elected office, and how policymaking and policy implementation can be adapted to target specific community improvements.



**Sarah Longwell**  
Republican strategist and publisher of *The Bulwark*

Longwell examined the shifting dynamics in today’s Republican Party and discussed the ways political realignment and polarization are impacting our politics – including her own research on how political communication and persuasive advertising can be used to mobilize voters.



**Erin Simpson**  
Director of Technology Policy at the Center for American Progress

Simpson engaged the students in a solutions-oriented deep dive into the many pervasive forms of disinformation and how the internet radically changed our information ecosystem, our politics, and how we understand each other in her seminar series, “DisinformationUSA: A Sociotechnical Reckoning on Where We Go from Here.”





Members of the 2022 Bridging the Divide co-hort participate in an immersive learning weekend

# Civic Engagement

The Civic Engagement program serves as a “democracy learning lab” where students have the opportunity to practice and develop citizenship and leadership skills. From boosting voter registration on campus to working with incarcerated individuals on their voting rights to bridging the urban-rural divide, the Civic Engagement program provides myriad opportunities for students to practice democratic engagement. This year, students traveled to El Paso and Juarez to study issues on the U.S.-Mexico border; returned to an in-person Bridging the Divide cohort, our urban-rural exchange program; and organized wide-ranging student-led programming including special outreach to graduate students and conservative students – two groups typically underrepresented at the IOP.

*Coming from a background of little-to-no experience in politics, I felt welcomed by the community created by the IOP Civic Engagement programs. Politics is often seen as a field with a closed door, only open to those with connections — the IOP helped open that door for me through a range of opportunities to get involved with the community and public service. Bridging the Divide was an especially noteworthy experience in my learning, as cohort members learned from not only the local speakers, but also from one another, picking up on our own past experiences to help broaden the perspective of those sitting next to us.*

Katie Fraser  
AB, '25



“

## Program Updates

**Chicago Bound** is a pre-orientation program, co-sponsored by the University Community Service Center, that provides students a foundation to become well-informed, active members in the city.

### Highlights:

- ▶ In September 2021, 90 first-year students participated in our virtual programming
- ▶ Additionally, our cohort-based programming served 50 students





# Program Updates

## Civic Dinners & Dialogue Dinners

The Civic Engagement team centered programs on developing tools to promote healthy dialogue and combat polarization. This year’s civic dinners partnership expanded to include the Pritzker Fellows, who provided students with leadership development opportunities.

### Highlights:

- ▶ This year, the IOP launched a new democracy dinner with IOP Pritzker Fellow, Anna Galland, focused on democracy at-large
- ▶ Through the newly launched leadership development retreats, highly engaged students delved into their connections with the broader Southside Chicago community as it relates to free speech and expression

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

### Highlights:

Through the Junior Writers program, the *Gate* students mentored young journalists during weekly writing workshops

- ▶ The Gate hosted over 10 workshops with journalists including *Washington Post* Political Columnist Karen Tumulty; Osita Nwanevu, a Contributing Editor for the *New Republic*; and Dylan Wells, a Congress and Campaigns reporter for *USA Today*
- ▶ The Gate students published more than 25 articles this academic year



**Leaders of Color** (LoC) is a student-run leadership development program for first- and second-year students of color. Through cohort-based training, workshops, virtual tours, and speakers, this initiative prepares students of color for leadership positions across campus and in the public sector.

### Highlights:

- ▶ LoC served 32 students of color in this year’s cohort through weekly professional development programming focused on leadership, racial justice, and public service
- ▶ LoC members created 25 mentoring relationships with their group surpassing goals and allowing for a more personalized mentorship experience for students



**Spectrum** empowers LGBTQ+ students with a community of LGBTQ+ peers and provides opportunities to expand their leadership skills and passion for public service. Through sustained service opportunities, workshops, and events, Spectrum elevates the visibility, acceptance, and leadership aptitude of UChicago’s LGBTQ+ community.



### Highlights:

- ▶ Spectrum holds the unique distinction of getting its start in a virtual and socially distanced environment
- ▶ Spectrum recruited a cohort of 18 undergraduate students. The cohort met weekly during Spring Quarter for community building, leadership development, and outreach to potential partner organizations in Chicago
- ▶ Spectrum began its first year of in-person programming, hosting Minneapolis Councilwoman Andrea Jenkins, and Lauren Baer from *Arena*

*Working on a student-led civic engagement group, Spectrum, has been one of the highlights of my time at UChicago. It’s given me the opportunity to be a part of an LGBTQ+ community for the first time. Working to expand and strengthen it in a meaningful way has been a simply incredible experience where I have learned, and grown.*

Owen Hein-Phillips  
AB, ‘24





# Program Updates

**TechTeam** develops digital tools that support and strengthen the impact of local non-profit organizations. TechTeam members are trained in coding and digital strategy and act as technology consultants for public service clients.

**Highlights:**

- ▶ Over 75 unique students participated in TechTeam initiatives this year, including programs in partnership with the International Organization for Adolescents, Pie for Providers, Chicago Public Schools Network, and others to build vital tech products
- ▶ TechTeam hosted its second annual Ideathon – the first time in person – where seven teams of students competed to develop digital tools for combating two unique themes: disinformation and climate change
- ▶ TechTeam also held programming workshops to build better connections within the civic tech scene



**W+** creates a gender-expansive space to empower female, nonbinary, and trans students to explore and cultivate their passions for public service. W+ fosters community growth and learning through quarterly leadership, mentorship, and engagement programs on- and off-campus.

**Highlights:**

- ▶ W+ expanded its reach by training seven planning teams throughout the Fall Quarter on creating a dynamic and interactive curriculum for weekly public service, successfully engaging nearly 20 students through the annual Winter Institute
- ▶ Launched W+ Engage, a community service and volunteer program to match 15 participants to direct service opportunities at three environmental and food justice organizations in Chicago



By the Numbers

554

Unique Students Engaged

# In Their Own Words

Estrella Hernandez, AB '23



The Institute of Politics' Civic Engagement programs have transformed me into the student and citizen I am today. They've provided me with an invaluable network of peers and mentors to connect with, helped me realize my ability to lead, and reaffirmed my commitment to pursuing a career in public service.

Even before starting college, I knew I wanted to spend my time outside of the classroom at UChicago meaningfully. I was excited by the prospect of becoming involved in community service programs and promoting civic engagement among my peers. But I was unsure of how to find a space where I would be able to learn, grow, and bond with my peers on campus, much less make a difference in the wider community.

I signed up for the Chicago Bound program seeking to find a space where I could realize these goals. The program was a life-changing experience; it not only taught me invaluable lessons about the City of Chicago's rich history, 77 community areas, and distinct culture, but also helped me to find my voice and gain my footing on campus. I found ways to transform my passion into action on issues I already cared deeply about, like serving immigrant communities and voter outreach efforts.

Later in my first year, I joined the 2019 - 2020 Leaders of Color Cohort. I can't describe how valuable it was for me to find a community of other students of color during such a formative period of my time in college. The cohort was a warm, welcoming space where I truly felt accepted. I was able to discuss aspects of my identity with my peers in ways I couldn't elsewhere on campus; I could have tough conversations with a group that I always knew would be there for me. The leadership skills I gained while participating in Leaders of Color paved the way for my involvement with UChiVotes.

From joining as a first-year eager to harness my passion for civic engagement to serving as one of UChiVotes' Co-Chairs, I've been incredibly fortunate to watch the organization grow while developing my leadership skills. I've been so grateful to work with a wonderful team of peers and staff mentors who've made achieving our most ambitious goals possible. I'm proud of the work that we've done to increase voter engagement throughout the UChicago community.

The Institute of Politics' Civic Engagement programs have made me a more engaged citizen, a better thinker, and a more effective leader. They've inexorably shaped my college experience, giving me self-confidence and a set of skills I will continue to rely on long after graduation.





Students pose in front of the U.S. Capitol during the DC Spring Break Trek

# Career Development

Inspiring students to pursue careers in the public sector is the central tenet of the Career Development program. The IOP aims to provide students with practical experience, workforce training, career advising, and access to a far-reaching professional network. In particular, the IOP's Internship Program grants students financial support and gives them access to opportunities regardless of economic status.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Career Development placed students in over 250 paid public service internships in Chicago, across the U.S., and around the globe – from the White House and Congress to state capitol buildings and city halls nationwide to economic development organizations in Europe and legal clinics in Africa. In think tanks like the Hoover Institution, our students analyzed the global implications of central bank digital currencies. They worked at the intersection of education and technology at EdTech Evidence Exchange, a nonprofit dedicated to helping educators make better-informed decisions about technology. Our students also helped develop youth programming on the Southwest Side of Chicago with the grassroots advocacy organization Gage Park Latinx and worked on strengthening people's free speech protections at the nonpartisan Free Speech Union.

During the academic year, Career Development's Urban Policy and Research Program (UPReP) and the Activism and Community Engagement (ACE) Program placed students in government and Chicago-based nonprofits for work focused on education, immigrant rights, voting engagement, and myriad of public policy challenges facing the greater Chicago area.

This academic year's return to in-person programming allowed the Career Development team to resume in-person career and skills-building workshops with practitioners, including President Obama speechwriter and co-founder of Crooked Media Jon Favreau; IOP Board of Advisors member and former U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp; and journalist and fellow IOP board member Bill Kristol.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing up, many of our students will resume in-person work during their 2022 summer internships. The IOP will provide students working in the Washington, D.C. area an opportunity to participate in our Charles H. Percy Summer in Washington Program where summer-long mentoring and programming will provide them with insights into the varied career paths available in the nation's capital.



*This opportunity has been incredible. I have met so many people and made so many connections - thanks mostly to my manager who has been very intentional about providing these opportunities for me. I have also learned a lot about the inner workings of CPS central office, which I think will be really beneficial when it's time for me to apply for full-time positions next year.*

**Victoria Sims**  
MPP, '23  
on her internship with Chicago  
Public Schools Office of the CEO



In Their Own Words

Julia Ferreira, AB '24

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the Deputy Secretary



I have gained and refined skills in memo writing, copywriting, management, project management, and research, along with other skills needed to work in an office, such as using Microsoft and Google suite. Furthermore, my manager has provided me many professional development opportunities, such as setting me up for coffee chats with people at other offices at DOE and helping me develop a personal pitch.

I love being able to take part in meetings with the Deputy Secretary, where I've seen firsthand how the DOE is combating climate change through political action. For example, during Credit Review Board meetings, I learned about the loans the DOE is granting to different companies for large-scale energy projects that will help achieve the Biden Administration's decarbonization goals. Another highlight was getting to see how the DOE plans for high level international events, since I'm interested in international relations. I took part in planning and strategic meetings for the Deputy Secretary's July trip to Naples for the G20 Ministerial on Climate and Energy.

This internship has further strengthened my commitment to a career in public service – it was incredible to feel that my actions were helping effect positive change, especially on the climate front. Everyone I worked with was not only passionate about issues like climate change and energy justice, but also truly loved the work they were doing and went above and beyond: I hope to bring that same energy to the work I do in the future. Furthermore, the internship allowed me to interact not only with political appointees, but also with career staff with immense expertise and years of experience that kept the department running throughout challenging administration changes. Getting to know some of the career staff made it clear how valuable their role is: They are dedicated to serving the public even in the face of political obstacles.

List of Internships  
Academic Year Internships

- Chicago Justice Project
- Disability Lead (Formerly ADA25)
- Illinois Policy Institute
- JusticeText
- One Million Degrees
- The Exoneration Project
- Advance Illinois
- Chicago Votes
- RefugeeOne
- HANA Center
- LiftUp Enterprises
- Chicago Public Schools Office of Equity
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Chicago Public Schools Department of Strategic Planning
- Chicago Public Schools Chief Education Office
- Chicago State University
- City Colleges of Chicago
- City of Chicago Planning Office; Office of Sustainable Development
- Cook County Medical Examiner's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Kimberly du Buclet
- Blackroots Alliance
- Chicago Justice Project
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Justice Project
- Invisible Institute
- Latino Policy Forum
- Partnership for College Completion
- Chicago Public Schools Office of Network Support
- Chicago Public Schools Office of Portfolio Management
- City of Chicago Office of Management and Budget

- City of Chicago Treasurer's Office
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Through this internship, I am engaging with Chicago's diverse community and working to address an important inequity in higher education. This experience has helped me further demonstrate my interest in the social impact space, and probably helped me secure my summer internship with another organization.

Mayur Bajaj  
AB, '24  
on his internship with  
One Million Degrees



List of Internships
Summer Internships

270 Strategies	Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center	U.S. Department of the Interior
A Better Chicago	Delta Health Alliance	Mayor Randall Woodfin (Birmingham, AL)	U.S. Department of Transportation
ABC News	East-West Center	Mayor Sylvester Turner (Houston, TX): Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities	U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL/16)
ADA25	Echelon Insights	Metropolitan Planning Council	U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ/03)
Advance Illinois (Communications & Development)	Economic Policy Institute	Morning Consult	U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
Advance Illinois (Policy Research)	EdTech Evidence Exchange	New Politics	UNICEF
Apolitical	Embassy of Mexico to the U.S.	One Country Project	Unite America
Asian Americans Advancing Justice	Emerging Markets Political Risk Analysis (EMPRA)	One Million Degrees	Washington Monthly
Aspen Institute (Aspen College Excellence Program)	Environmental Law & Policy Center	Partnership for College Completion	White House
Aspen Institute (Community Strategies Group)	Fahe	People’s Action Institute	Wilson Center
Aspen Institute (Education Program)	Global Livingston Institute	Results for America	World Resources Institute
Ballotpedia	Hazleton Integration Project	Precision Strategies	Young Invincibles
BallotReady	Governor JB Pritzker (D-IL)	Reform for Illinois	
Blackroots Alliance	High Cotton Consulting	Secure America’s Future Energy (SAFE)	
Braven	Hoover Institution	Seven Letter	
Center for American Progress	Housing Assistance Council (HAC)	Shriver Center on Poverty Law (Communications)	
Center for European Policy Analysis	Hudson Institute	Social Finance	
Charles H. Percy Summer in Washington Program/ Office of Federal Relations	IDEIA USA LLC	Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Population Science and Policy Department	
Chicago Community Trust	Illinois Business Immigration Coalition	SpeakEasy Political	
Chicago Council on Global Affairs	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority	State Representative Kelly Cassidy (D-IL/14)	
Chicago Justice Project	Illinois Department of Human Services	State Representative Lamont Robinson (D/IL-05)	
Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST)	Illinois Justice Project	Sweet Water Foundation	
Chicago Public Schools Chief Executive Office	Illinois Policy Institute	The Education Trust	
Chicago Public Schools Office of Equity	Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship	The Exoneration Project	
Chicago Public Schools Office of Network Support	Indus Action	The Field Foundation	
Chicago Public Schools Office of the Portfolio Officer	Injustice Watch	The Soufan Center	
Chicago Votes	Justice is Global	U.S. Department of Agriculture	
City of Chicago; Department of Family & Support Services	Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)	U.S. Department of Defense	
Civic Action Labs	JusticeText	U.S. Department of Energy	
Civic, LLC	Latino Policy Forum	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Resources & Services Administration	
Coalition for Integrity	KJD Strategies	U.S. Department of Labor	
Common Cause	LIFT, Inc.	U.S. Department of State	
Community Organizing and Family Issues	LGBTQ Victory Fund		
	LiftUp Enterprises		

By the Numbers

42 Academic-year Internships

225 Summer Internships and Stipends

267 Total Internships



# Special Programs

## Borderlands Trek

The IOP resumed domestic and international travel this year, taking 14 students on a Borderlands Trek to El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez in Mexico over spring break to explore issues related to immigration and economic development in a region unfamiliar to many of our students.

With former Pritzker Fellow Alfredo Corchado serving as a guide, students met with El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, the U.S. Border Patrol, grassroots organizers from the Hope Border Institute, and U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, (D-TX).

During the trek, students crossed the border into Juarez via pedestrian bridge, met violence prevention officials, government transparency leaders, and toured a maquiladora – a multinational mass production factory site.

Students reported this immersive experience of crossing the border and taking a deep dive into the immigration and economic issues in a more direct way than usual was both transformative and intellectually invigorating.

Many students reported a desire to return to the region to further study the issues and play a role in finding solutions to the policy challenges they observed.



Scene from the 2022 Borderlands Trek



Scene from the 2022 Borderlands Trek

*Descriptions of the borderlands provided by policymakers and news reports are often intentionally crafted to convey a specific (often, politically-motivated) narrative – this trek provided the opportunity to see the region for myself and fill gaps in my understanding of migration, border security, and immigration policy. Meeting with elected representatives, law enforcement officials, community members, and other stakeholders provided me with a diverse range of perspectives on the issue, shaped my understanding of US/Mexico relations, and most importantly reaffirmed my commitment to working on immigration policy in the future.*

Sinduri Soundararajan  
AB, '22

## D.C. Career Trek



Students pose with Center for Strategic & International Studies staffers during DC Spring Break Trek

This year the IOP's Career Development team took 11 students to Washington, D.C. as part of the D.C. Spring Break Trek – an annual event that had been on pause because of the pandemic. During the trek, students met with dozens of people working in a variety of public service sectors. These connections included elected officials, current and past congressional staffers, journalists, foreign service personnel, think tank researchers, and advocates.

Over a four-day span, students were able to question elected officials, explore a variety of career paths, learn more about key policy issues, and develop professional networks.

Students also toured the U.S. Capitol, met with senior staffers at the American Enterprise Institute and Center for Strategic and International Studies, spoke with U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and IOP board member and former chairman of the Republican National Committee Ed Gillespie.

One highlight of the trek included meeting with IOP alumni who have gone on to establish themselves in politics and public service, including White House press staffer Megha Bhattacharya and *USA Today* Congressional Reporter Dylan Wells.

Both alumni were highly engaged with the IOP during their undergraduate years and were able to walk students step-by-step through the career decisions they made, how to effectively network, and how to navigate life in Washington, D.C. as a young professional.



*What surprised me most about the trek is something so simple yet so powerful: how welcoming and responsive the hosts were to all of us, despite the political differences we may have had. I found these experiences to be powerful because they demonstrated that those engaging in politics are really just like us and that despite our differences, we can still love each other as Americans. One does not see this much in today's political media. The most significant lessons I learned during the experience was to network like there's no tomorrow, make my voice heard on issues I most care about, and be very responsive to the concerns of community members.*

Nathnael Alazar  
AB, '22



# Bridging the Divide

Since 2017, the Bridging the Divide public service leadership program has brought urban and rural students together to listen and learn from each other, engage in productive – and sometimes uncomfortable – conversations to break down ideological and geographical barriers, and step outside the cultural silos that increasingly threaten to weaken our democracy.

Bridging the Divide first launched as a partnership between the IOP and Eureka College, a private Christian school in central Illinois. BTD has since gained national recognition, resulting in colleges across the country requesting assistance in recreating similar programs on their campuses. In its second year, BTD welcomed Arrupe College, a two-year degree program at Loyola University in Chicago to the partnership. Over two weekends this year, the primary focus of the Civic Engagement team was ensuring BTD could take place in-person. Ultimately, after delays caused by the Omicron subvariant, the IOP was able to reshape the program into a cohort of 24 students taking a deep dive into gun violence and climate change as seen across party and geographic affiliations.

Over the first weekend, the BTD cohort convened in southern Illinois where students listened to conservative voters in a focus group facilitated by acclaimed political pollster David Binder. Students spent time with local political leaders in violence prevention and climate change work, and spent time building relationships and discussing the pressing political issues of the moment.

During the second weekend in Chicago, students heard from Democratic voters and spent time with policy advocates, and civic leaders who were working on climate change, and violence prevention. They visited an urban farm and participated in a neighborhood tour with climate change activists to get on-the-ground perspectives. A transformative moment was sparked by Jahmal Cole, CEO and Founder of the My Block, My Hood, My City organization. Cole spoke about his personal experiences with the trauma of gun violence, vulnerability, and mental health concerns among people who have experienced violence.

Across both weekends, students grappled with questions of racial attitudes, distrust between progressives and conservatives, the root causes of gun violence, and tensions between climate change and economic pressures. They were challenged to actively listen to each other and not react based on their personal opinions.

Bridging the Divide reinforces that we all benefit when we listen to one another, especially to those with whom we disagree. The Civic Engagement team presented the IOP's Bridging the Divide model at this year's Campus Compact Conference, and is actively engaging with other colleagues across the country who may want to replicate it.



Members of the 2022 Bridging the Divide cohort

“  
My biggest takeaway was a reminder of the value of on-the-ground, place-based learning. I hadn't realized how much I missed that experience during COVID, and BTD reaffirmed how important actually being in a place and in community is to any bridge-building work.”

Layne Friedman  
AB, '24

# UChiVotes

Two years after one of the most consequential elections in U.S. history, an election after which our democratic guardrails were tested by the attempted overthrow of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, our efforts to boost voter registration and turnout on the University of Chicago campus is at a critical point.

Created four years ago to establish UChicago as a national leader in campus get-out-the-vote efforts, this student-led, staff-supported effort has made steady progress in engaging students, staff, and faculty on all corners of campus.



With the goal of surpassing 2016's 50 percent turnout rate, UChiVotes adopted the mantra of “We Can Do Better” for the 2020 elections. With staff support, students designed an almost exclusively digital outreach operation made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign succeeded in increasing eligible voter registration to 72 percent, up from 67 percent in 2016, and voter turnout to 59 percent, up from 50 percent in 2016.

While voter registration and turnout numbers are steadily improving on campus, the UChiVotes team have spent the time between the 2020 elections and the 2022 midterms planning for another massive outreach campaign. This year, students took a significant step in making voting on campus easier for their peers. UChiVotes leaders worked with the Undergraduate Student Government to pass the uchiVOTE act resolution, which outlines a path to mobilize voters ahead of the 2022 midterm elections. Among other measures, the act specifically proposes an increase in the number of campus early voting sites for every general and primary election.

In the runup to future local, state, and national elections, UChiVotes student leaders continue to recruit and train voting ambassadors, adding 50 new voting ambassadors to the team this academic year.



UChiVotes leaders pass out swag and voter registration information during the Spring Quarter's National Voter Registration Day



UChiVotes leaders pass out swag and voter registration information during the Spring Quarter's National Voter Registration Day



# Working with Incarcerated Populations

Over the last four years, the Civic Engagement team has been intentional about creating new opportunities for students to work with and serve incarcerated people. Student interest in this area of public service grew out of the conversations they were having with each other about the criminal justice system and interactions with former Pritzker Fellow Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart. Since then the work has grown exponentially from a cohort of five students volunteering in one program to more than 30 students volunteering across three distinct initiatives.

The Civic Engagement team has seen firsthand how the impact of this programming has increased empathy for incarcerated populations, taught students how to be effective in their advocacy for marginalized groups, and built foundations for careers in criminal justice reform.

## Bridge Writing Workshop

The Bridge Writing Workshop uses creative writing as an outlet of self-expression for incarcerated youth and adults. Through Bridge, students build relationships with incarcerated individuals through creative writing workshops, shortening the distance between people who interact with the criminal legal system and the UChicago community.

### Highlights:

- ▶ This academic year, students transitioned weekly correspondence workshops into a hybrid format creating more personal connections among participants
- ▶ Students worked with 27 incarcerated individuals and expanded their work to include two separate divisions of Cook County Jail
- ▶ Students facilitated 32 workshops and are capturing their efforts in a print magazine featuring writings from both students and incarcerated individuals

## Illinois Youth Center

During the 2020-21 academic year, students created a new partnership with the Illinois Youth Center, hosting 52 virtual workshops to conduct creative writing workshops with adolescents who are incarcerated. This academic year, student leaders are working to build the infrastructure to hold future workshops in person.

## Cook County Jail UChiVotes Civics Pilot

This year The Civic Engagement team partnered with Cook County Jail to create informational voting rights presentations for detainees in advance of the 2022 midterm elections. Students played an integral role in helping incarcerated individuals understand their rights and cast their votes at a newly created Cook County Jail polling location. Over 14 sessions, 18 student volunteers helped 300 incarcerated individuals cast their votes.

“  
*Being involved with Bridge has completely changed the trajectory of my college experience. As a student at UChicago, it's easy to fall into thinking that learning should take place in a classroom, but I've learned more from the participants in our workshops than I have in many classes.*

Ethan Ostrow  
AB, '23

# Ideathon

Ideathon is a student-led event hosted by TechTeam, which brings together civic-minded and tech-savvy individuals to group into teams to generate solutions to address pressing issues at the intersection of technology and society.

Participants are encouraged to use the multi-day event to conceptualize new ideas ranging from original startups, social enterprises, innovative software, or reimagined government policy.

This year's program focused on two major themes: disinformation and climate change. Students signed up for a weekend of programming where they participated in brainstorming, mentoring sessions, keynotes, and fireside chats with civic technologists and policymakers. All seven teams worked toward finding a unique pitch for a new product or service designed to address disinformation or climate change.

Among this year's pitches were an app to verify the accuracy of online information sources, an app to better keep track of legislation, a web app for tracking politicians' funding from fossil fuel companies, and a database of elected officials for accountability.

This year's winning team, VEEP, presented their Voter Education and Engagement Platform. Presented by three public policy students, VEEP's app will track legislation related to issues that concern the user. The app will provide notifications to users and allow them to contact elected officials regarding that legislation.

This year's Ideathon mentors included Julia Oran, AB '18 Solutions Engineer at Code for America; Angela Li, AB '18 Sociology Ph.D. candidate at Princeton University and Founder of Angeli Li Data LLC; and Nico Marchio, Lead Data Scientist at the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation.

Keynote speakers were IOP Pritzker Fellow Erin Simpson, AB '15 and Alicia Rouault. Erin Simpson is a technology policy expert committed to advancing public interest values online. Simpson is currently the Director of Technology Policy at the Center for American Progress, where she develops policy responses to a range of economic, social, and democratic challenges. Rouault is the Acting Director of Product at 18F, a digital consultancy within the United States Government within the Technology Transformation Service at GSA. She was the founder of Local Data, a cloud-hosted geospatial data platform. Currently, she is a Digital Services Expert in Product Management at the White House.



Ideathon participants speak with IOP Director David Axelrod (right)



Pritzker Fellow Erin Simpson (AB '15) listens to students during the 2022 Ideathon



# Project Battleground

With 2022 shaping up to be a pivotal election year in American politics, many of the IOP’s most engaged students were searching for ways they and their peers could play active roles in the races that will help decide the future trajectory of U.S. politics. After much brainstorming, the OP launched Project Battleground, an intensive, multi-week initiative where students will learn the ins and outs of working on political campaigns and covering campaigns as journalists.

Twenty-five students were selected to Project Battleground’s inaugural cohort out of nearly 100 who applied. Students will participate in a series of workshops throughout the summer and fall to learn the tools to work on a campaign or cover one as a journalist.

Students in the Project Battleground cohort will participate in campaign- and journalism-focused workshops led by past IOP Pritzker Fellows, IOP alumni, among others. Students will get an in-depth look at the moving parts of modern political campaigns: voter registration, canvassing, fundraising, opposition research, data analytics, multimedia communications, and more. A database of campaign job opportunities also will be made available to all University of Chicago students interested in working on a campaign or covering one as a journalist.

In the fall, Project Battleground students will return to campus where their role as part of the cohort will shift to voter outreach. Students will work with UChiVotes on campuswide voter outreach campaigns to boost UChicago’s voter registration and voter turnout rates. Cohort members will also help staff the campus early voting polling location run by UChiVotes, Cook County, and the IOP’s Civic Engagement team. Post Election Day, Project Battleground students will present a capstone presentation to other cohort members and IOP staff regarding what they learned and their activity during the 2022 midterm elections.



# In Their Own Words

Tara Farwana, MPP ‘23



The IOP has been one of the best things about my first year at the University of Chicago. As a Master’s of Public Policy student, I knew coming into the university that I wanted to spend as much time as possible learning from real-world policy practitioners; I did not expect just how many of those opportunities that the IOP would provide for me.

The programming, access, and community is absolutely unmatched. I especially have appreciated the variety of ways in which I have been able to get involved at the IOP. The Speaker Series events have brought in some of the best and brightest policy makers (and minds) each week.

The Pritzker Fellows program has allowed me the opportunity to build relationships with incredible people with diverse backgrounds. Through the Civic Engagement program, I’ve been able to take my passion for voting and use it to train marginalized communities on their rights at Cook County Jail. Each of these experiences, and countless others, have contributed to making the IOP such formative part of my University of Chicago experience.

Above all else, the people I have met through the IOP have been absolutely incredible. The student community is brilliant and inspiring, and I have enjoyed getting to know people outside of my own graduate program. The staff at the IOP has been phenomenal – they have provided endless advice, guidance, and opportunities, and I have greatly enjoyed working with and getting to know everyone on the team. Everyone on the team has also been especially receptive to feedback and open to new ideas, which shows me just how much the IOP is willing to learn and grow with students.

I cannot emphasize enough just how great of an experience I have had with the IOP. In my remaining time at the University of Chicago, I look forward to continuing to bring in fellow graduate students (especially from the Harris School!) to get the same experience.



# Alumni Spotlights



Edgar works at Mexico’s Office for the Implementation of the USMCA where he coordinates the stakeholder outreach portfolio and the supply chain work. The office focuses in dealing with US - Mexico trade issues.

“I really enjoyed the conversations with the IOP Fellows. It was so easy to interact and learn from individuals with world-class political and diplomatic careers on the most pressing global and domestic issues. It definitely widened my perspective and helped me set a benchmark on my future interactions with leaders in Washington, D.C.”



Rodrigo Estrada is a Truman Scholar currently serving as an Economic Development Specialist at the Department of Commerce. During his time at Commerce, he has worked closely with economically distressed communities and tribes impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to develop economic development strategies. In particular, he oversaw a \$1 million federal project to turn his hometown’s rural airport into a research park and small business incubator.

“I first got involved with the IOP through the Summer in Washington Program. The IOP helped me secure the internship of my dreams at the White House where I got a front-row seat to democracy. I also participated in Leaders of Color and Bridging the Divide which showed me how to engage with opposing viewpoints in a constructive matter. The IOP has allowed me to cultivate lifelong friendships with fellow change-makers and has provided me with amazing opportunities to pursue my passion for public service.”



Noa Levin is a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) currently working as a Public Affairs Specialist in the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services. During her time in the IG’s office, she has worked on issues such as combatting COVID-19-related health care fraud and ensuring quality of care in nursing homes. For her upcoming PMF detail, she plans to focus on foreign policy issues, and she hopes to pursue a long-term career in public service.

“I first came into contact with the IOP as a writer, and ultimately Editor-in-Chief, for The Gate, UChicago’s Undergraduate Political Review. But the IOP quickly came to mean much more, and had a significant impact on my academic and professional aspirations. Through speaker events with notable public servants and networking events with alumni, the IOP played an integral part in my decision to pursue a career in public service after graduating. It was also an incredible community that allowed me to meet other students with similar interests, hear about and be inspired by their professional goals, and be challenged intellectually.”



Aliza Oppenheim works as a Staff Assistant for Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-o8) where she works on a wide range of policy issues including the environment, health care, and veterans affairs.

“The IOP allowed me to explore various areas of government and policy through speakers and seminars, but it also taught me more practical skills: how to speak up, how to lead, and how to listen and hear those around me, giving me the chance to go from saying two words in a meeting to leading it two years later. At the IOP, I was given the chance to find my voice and grow as a leader.

My time at the IOP exposed me to a variety of perspectives and allowed me to make connections with everyone from my peers, to staff, to even former members of Congress. Most importantly, the IOP taught me to appreciate the wide variety of types of service and the people who dedicate their time to others at every level.”



# Staffing and Leadership

## Student Advisory Board

The Student Advisory Board (SAB) provides a critical student voice in shaping the direction of IOP programming. This year, the SAB took on the following projects.

### Addressing partisanship on campus

- ▶ The SAB hosted a series of informal conversations with the leaders of the UChicago Democrats and UChicago Republicans to build goodwill and establish relationships with each group. After a year of organizing and liaising between the leaders, the SAB hosted a conversation on social media and disinformation with members of both organizations and have already planned similar conversations for the following academic year

### Understanding the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

- ▶ Only two weeks after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the SAB organized, promoted, and moderated a conversation about the invasion featuring UChicago Political Science Professor Paul Poast; Dan Diaczun, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America – Illinois Division; and Wolfgang Mössinger, Consul General of Chicago, who previously served in the Donbas region

### Bridging the civilian-military divide

- ▶ The SAB organized and hosted an event in conjunction with the Speakers Series team featuring a cleanup of the Midway and a conversation on addressing the civilian-military divide. The SAB is excited to continue addressing this divide next year

### Understanding progress in a partisan world

- ▶ The SAB organized, promoted, and moderated a conversation featuring Legislative aid for Rob Portman, Avery Pierson and Legislative Director for John Tester, Justin Folsom. The conversation covered how the Group of Ten in the Senate collaborated to write and pass the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021

### Career Corner Podcast

- ▶ The SAB planned and recorded the first several episodes of a short-form podcast featuring IOP fellows and speakers centered on providing pragmatic career advice for students seeking careers in politics and public service



# Staffing and Leadership

## Student Advisory Board Members

### Natalie Ayers

Natalie Ayers is a second-year Master’s student in Computational Analysis and Public Policy studying computation and conflict. She’s engaged with the IOP as an intern with the Cook County Medical Examiner and as a Fellows Ambassador to Sally Yates.

### Jack Capizzi

Jack is a fourth-year in the college from Nashville, TN, studying history and political science. He began his involvement with the IOP as an events ambassador during his first year. Jack currently serves as a communications co-chair on the Student Advisory Board.

### Bryan Cronan

Bryan Cronan is a second-year at the Harris School of Public Policy and a Graduate Chair on the SAB. Bryan was a Fulbright Scholar, journalist, and worked in federal health care policy. Bryan graduated with highest honors from Emory University.

### Julia Du

Julia Du is this year’s Fellows Chair. A College 4th yr majoring in economics & sociology, Julia has tried out a lot of different things at the IOP, including Fellow Ambassadors, Tech Team, Bridging the Divide, Event Ambassadors, & the Iowa Project.

### Sophie Hare

Sophie is a third-year majoring in Public Policy and minoring in Spanish. Outside of the IOP, she serves on the Public Policy department’s student advisory board, conducts public health research, and tutors for the US citizenship exam.

### Ricky Holder

Ricky is a proud Californian, a former foster child, a veteran of the US Navy, a third-year studying public policy, a proud dog dad of a beautiful Australian shepherd, and the lucky husband of Leslie. He loves to read, brew coffee, and play basketball.

### Maya Krasovsky

Maya is a fourth-year student majoring in Economics and Sociology. Her involvement with the IOP spans Leaders of Color, the Speaker Series, and the ACE internship program.

### Hamza Jilani

Hamza is a second-year student in the College from Washington, D.C. majoring in Political Science and Economics. At the IOP, he has been a cohort member of Leaders of Color and is currently the Co-Director of the Voting Ambassador Team at UChiVotes.

### Sophia Li

Sophie is a fourth-year pre-medical student majoring in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Her interests include reproductive rights and making the world a safer place for queer and BIPOC peoples. She currently serves as the Civic Engagement Co-Chair.

### Jackie Rosa

Jackie is a fourth-year political science major and history minor. She’s engaged with the IOP through LOC and the Fellows Program. Outside the IOP, Jackie works for a Senate campaign in her home state of Wisconsin and has interned for the US State Dept.

### Julianna Rossi

Julianna Rossi is a fourth-year in The College from Los Angeles studying political science & minoring in human rights. She is a UChiVotes Co-Chair & writes for *The Gate*. Talk to her about voting rights, international relations, & everything in between.

### Andrew Simon

Andrew is a fourth-year economics and public policy major from Yardley, PA. Andrew previously served as an intern and SAB Chair for the Speakers Series and helped co-found Spectrum. Andrew worked at the American Medical Association and enjoys running.



# Staffing and Leadership

## IOP Staff

### David Axelrod

Institute Director

David is a preeminent American political strategist and commentator; the former chief strategist and senior advisor to President Barack Obama; a senior political commentator for CNN; and host of The Axe Files podcast.

### Zeenat Rahman

Executive Director

Zeenat comes to the IOP with over two decades of experience in the public and social sector working to strengthen democracy and civil society. She previously served at the U.S. State Department as a special advisor to Secretaries Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, and as acting director at the Center for Faith-based and Community Initiatives at USAID.

### Koran Addo

Director of Communications

Before joining the IOP, Koran worked as Director of Communications for the St. Louis Mayor’s Office and as a political and education reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *The Advocate* newspaper in Baton Rouge, La., and other publications.

### Joel Ebert

Associate Producer

Joel joined the IOP’s Speaker Series team in November 2021, after spending nearly a decade reporting on state legislatures and government in South Dakota, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Illinois. His award-winning reporting has garnered national recognition.

### Noureen Hashim

Deputy Chief of Staff

Noureen joined the IOP in April 2022. Her background includes working as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Tenth District Office of Cook County; and as the national portfolio manager for Ismaili CIVIC, a faith-based civic engagement organization committed to improving communities through volunteerism and community organizing.

### Christine Hurley

Director, Production and Special Events

Christine began at the IOP as Associate Producer and then Director of the Speaker Series. Before joining the IOP, Christine was Associate Producer for “Chicago Tonight,” a nightly news magazine on PBS where she was nominated for three Emmy Awards.

### Ashley Jorn

Associate Director, Fellows Program

Ashley joined the IOP in 2015 as the program coordinator for the Pritzker Fellows and Speaker Series teams. She’s held her current position with the Pritzker Fellows program since 2017. Prior to joining the IOP, Ashley worked in education as a teacher, tutor, and coach.

### Laresa Lund

Program Coordinator, Career Development

Laresa joined the IOP staff in spring 2022. Before coming to Chicago, Laresa worked at Indiana University’s Liberal Arts and Management Program, where she managed communications, events, alumni engagement, and career advising.

### Katrina Mertens

Director of Operations and Budget

Katrina joined the IOP in the fall of 2012. Prior to joining the IOP, Katrina worked at the Illinois State Board of Education. Before that, Katrina worked in the narcotics unit of the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office.

### Purvi Patel

Director, Civic and Campus Engagement

Purvi joined the IOP in February 2019. She previously worked as an administrator in diversity and student life at Washington University in St. Louis, Loyola University Maryland, and Oberlin College.

### Alicia Sams

Director, Pritzker Fellows Program

Alicia has 20-plus years of experience producing and directing award-winning documentaries and films, including chronicling the presidential campaign of then-Senator Barack Obama for HBO, resulting in the Emmy Award-winning film “By the People: The Election of Barack Obama.”

### Mark Schauerte

Director, Career Development

Before joining the IOP, Mark served as chief of staff to Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-IL. Mark is an attorney and practiced law in Chicago in addition to working as an award-winning journalist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Chicago Lawyer.

### Allyson Siegal

Chief of Staff

Allyson has served as the Chief of Staff to IOP Director David Axelrod since June 2017. She also co-produces “The Axe Files” and “Hacks on Tap” podcasts. Prior to joining the IOP, Allyson worked on Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s reelection campaign.

### Jennifer Steinhauer

Director, Speaker Series

Jennifer Steinhauer came to the IOP in February 2022 after a 25-year reporting career at *The New York Times*. She has written several books including “The Firsts” which chronicled the first year of the largest female class in Congress.

### Matilda Thornton Clark

Associate Director, Civic and Campus Engagement

Before joining the IOP, Matilda worked as an organizer and organizing director with student public research interest groups, running campaigns to turn out the youth vote in elections.



# Staffing and Leadership

## Board of Advisors

### 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)

Partner, Forbes Tate

### Robert Gibbs

Senior Counsel, Bully Pulpit Interactive

Former White House Press Secretary

### Ed Gillespie

Senior Executive Vice President, AT&T

Former RNC Chairman

### Larry Grisolano

Partner & CEO, AKPD Message and Media

### Heidi Heitkamp

Former Member, U.S. Senate (D-ND)

Co-founder and Chair of the One Country Project

### Bill Kristol

Editor-at-Large, The Bulwark

Founder, The Weekly Standard

### Ray LaHood

Co-Chair, Building America's Future

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation

### Isaac Lee

Executive Chairman, Exile Content Studio

### Michael Morell

Senior Counselor, Beacon Global Strategies

Former Acting Director & Deputy Director, CIA

### David Muir

Former Director of Political Strategy for

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown

### 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 Senior Advisor to U.S. Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney

### Deval Patrick

Former Governor of Massachusetts

### Darren Reisberg

President, Hartwick College

### Bakari Sellers

Former South Carolina State Representative

### Bret Stephens

Op-Ed Columnist, New York Times

### Karen Tumulty

Political Columnist, The Washington Post

### Amy Walter

Publisher and Editor-in-Chief,

*The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter*

### Howard Wolfson

Senior Advisor, Bloomberg Philanthropies

### Sofia Gross

Ex Officio Member

Global Public Policy Manager, Snap, Inc.





[politics.uchicago.edu](http://politics.uchicago.edu)