

AT THE CENTER



Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

Academic Year in Review – 2015-16

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Greetings from the Director



Welcome to our 2015-16 *Academic Year in Review*. Many of you are familiar with our previous biannual newsletter. In large part because of time constraints this new format will become our signature communication device that will provide a synopsis of the entire academic year with its summer release. While it will be longer than the former, it will provide you with a more comprehensive and holistic view of our many activities. Of course, the [website](#), our [BC Listserve](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) are avenues for learning about current and upcoming events.

Another academic year has passed and we are solidly on a path to an integrated education and research policy center. For those new to the Baker Center, a revision in our mission and focus was made in 2009, and seven years later we are a smaller, more strategic organization focused on student engagement and the policy areas of *energy and environment*, *global security* and *leadership and governance*. We hope you will join us this fall for an exciting semester with new events, voter education and registration opportunities, research projects and much more. For now, please enjoy this review and links to the many fascinating events and publications we have produced. This includes the graduation of another set of **Baker Scholars** and **Ambassadors** and more than 50 public events, including the *Baker Distinguished Lecture*, *Ashe Lecture*, *Howard Baker Memorial Lecture*, *Energy & Environmental Forum*, *Global Security Lecture*, *Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge* and our *Baker Café* series – *short bursts of knowledge brewed just for you* (plus cookies)! Plus we added a few new ones like the *Howard Baker Memorial Lecture*, *The Last Lecture* and *Voterpalooza*!

As a reminder . . . the **Baker Center Toyota Auditorium** is now serving as a Knox County voting precinct with **Early Voting on Oct. 31- Nov. 3** and the **election on Nov. 8**. Don't forget – *last day to register to vote in Tennessee is Oct. 11!*



Research & Publications

The Baker Center's research agenda continued to grow as externally-funded research grants increased from \$210,000 to \$284,000 this fiscal year (July – June), not counting confirmed but pending projects. **Dr. David Greene**, **Dr. Matt Murray**, **Dr. Charles Sims** and **Dr. Krista Wiegand** each received over \$60,000 in research grants. **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** and the **Energy Foundation** gave their support to Dr. Greene and **Dr. Jilleah Welch**, Baker Center research associate, for work analyzing the effects of CAFÉ/GHG standards for light-duty vehicles on households with different income levels in the United States. Dr. Murray received support from **Apex Clean Energy**, and with Dr. Welch, estimated the impacts associated with the [proposed crab orchard wind farm](#). Dr. Murray and Dr. Sims received support from the **Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations** to evaluate the economic value of open space in Tennessee. The **Department of Defense Minerva Initiative**, granted through the **University of North Texas**, provided funding for Dr. Wiegand's project titled *Identity Claims: Expanding the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW)*



Dataset. See the discussion below for more information on the activities of the **Institute for Nuclear Security**.

Our **Baker Fellows** also had several new publications this year. Faculty Fellow **Dr. Charles Sims** shared insights into President Obama's positions at the [Paris Climate Talks](#). He also created an ***Energy Scorecard for the American States*** which ranked states based on metrics including energy, economy and the environment (see the rankings here: <http://bakercenter.utk.edu/10194-2/>). We also received a lot of attention for his presentation and paper examining the ***Economic Potential of South Knoxville's Urban Wilderness*** (pictured below), with assistance from Baker graduate students **Rebecca Davis** and **Bong Kim**. Becky and



Bong also assisted **Dr. Murray** on a couple of projects looking at the economic impacts of activities in Oak Ridge and [coal in east Tennessee](#). Becky further aided Baker Fellow **Dr. Scott Holladay** (UTK Economics) with a ***Baker Policy Brief on Energy Intensity and Electricity Consumption in Tennessee***. Senior Fellow **Dr. David Greene** continued his busy workload with research, papers and presentations, including a webinar on ***Accelerating Change: Towards Low-carbon Transportation***, organized by C2ES for

the Bank of America, 2/18/2016; a presentation on ***Transportation and Energy*** to the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine, Washington, DC, 11/5/2015; and one on ***Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology*** at **Pathways Initiative Workshop**, organized by Pollution Probe Canada, Toronto, 3/22/2016. **Dr. Greene** will be the ***2016 Geddes W. Simpson Lecturer*** at the **University of Maine** in the fall 2016. He also worked with **Dr. Matt Murray** and **Dr. Mark Burton** (UTK Center for Transportation Research) on ***The Future of Roadway Funding in Tennessee*** published in November 2015.



David Greene

We also launched a new series of short commentaries called ***On Point!*** **Dr. Wiegand** wrote ***Fishing, Shipping Lanes, Oil & Gas: Is Peaceful Resolution of the South China Sea Dispute Possible?*** Baker Fellow **Dr. John Nolt** wrote an article on ***Nuclear Power, Fossil Fuels, and Climate Change: The Long View***. Visit our website to see the [full list of Baker Center publications](#). You can also [read the research reports](#) produced by our eight recent graduate **Baker Scholars** in fulfillment of the Baker Scholar program requirement.

Visit <http://bakercenter.utk.edu> and click on the left menu tab – ***Policy Research & Experts*** for access to all of our experts.

Staff & Student News

Baker Center Welcomes New Research Associate

Dr. Jilleah Welch joined the Baker Center staff as a research associate in November 2015. Previously, she worked as a graduate research assistant for the UTK **Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research** while she earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her research primarily focuses on public finance, economics of education, environmental economics and public policy analysis. She examined how financial aid programs affect students' enrollment decisions, student outcomes and colleges' financial decisions, and she is currently exploring how fuel economy standards affect US consumers' expenditures on fuel and vehicles across income groups. Jilleah said, *I'm excited to be at the Baker Center. I'm looking forward to collaborating with the interdisciplinary faculty and staff and researching public policy issues including those within energy and environment, global security and governance, which are central to the mission of the Baker Center.* Welcome Jilleah!



Congratulations to Rebecca Davis – NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship!

Rebecca Davis, a doctoral student in Economics and Baker Center graduate student researcher, is one of only three graduate students in the US to win a **National Bureau of Economic Research Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Energy Economics** for 2016-17. The prestigious NBER sponsors dissertation fellowships to encourage research in energy economics and recipients are selected for their potential to make an important contribution to the field. Davis has co-authored several papers under Dr. Charles Sims and Dr. Matt Murray. She will receive a \$25,000 stipend to support costs associated with data acquisition and travel to research meetings, and she has also been invited to attend the NBER Summer Institute meeting on Environmental and Energy Economics in Cambridge, Massachusetts in late July. We could not be more proud of Becky and we look forward to her continued progress at the Baker Center and UTK!



Krista Wiegand – Elected President of SERMEISS

Baker Faculty Fellow in Global Security, **Dr. Krista Wiegand**, travels widely. Last December she led our **Kakehashi** students to Japan, and this past May she was a Visiting Scholar at the **East-West Center (EWC)** at the **University of Hawaii**. The EWC is a research institute established by Congress in 1960 to promote strong relations between the US and the Asia-Pacific region. While at EWC, she conducted research and wrote about conflict resolution of the South China Sea islands and maritime dispute, specifically between China and the Philippines. She will present her research at the **International Conference on Philippine Studies** in the Philippines in July 2016. Dr. Wiegand was also elected President of the **Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar (SERMEISS)**, a regional organization comprised of more than 300 members from Florida to Washington, DC. She will be President of the organization for the next two years. She also accepted the role of Chair of the International Law Section of the **International Studies Association (ISA)**. For the next two years, she will preside over a membership of more than 400 international law researchers.

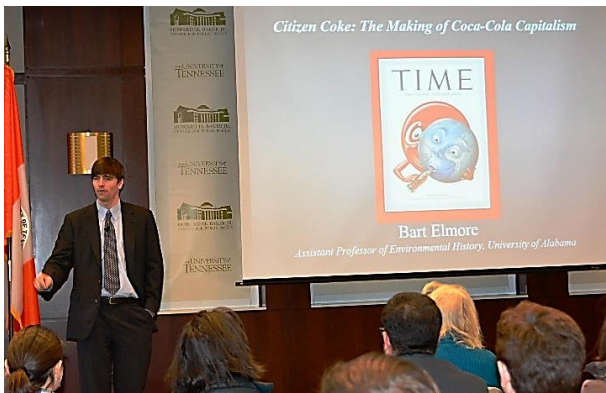


Energy and Environment – Charles Sims

The past year was very busy for the **Energy and Environmental Policy Program** led by **Dr. Charles Sims**. Last July, Dr. Sims hosted a symposium for around 50 invited economists on *Thresholds, Tipping Points, and Random Events in Dynamic Economic Systems*. Papers from this symposium will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. Dr. Sims also published an article in *Computational Economics*, and he presented research on the economics of infectious disease, forest fires and ecological change at conferences in San Diego, New Orleans and at the University of Cambridge.



The **Energy & Environmental Forum** returned for its fifth year, led by an interdisciplinary group of faculty members: **Dr. Paul Armsworth**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; **Dr. Don Hodges**, Forestry Economics and Policy; **Becky Jacobs**, College of Law; and Dr. Sims. With support from the **College of Arts and Sciences**, this year's forum featured environmental historian **Dr. Bart Elmore** (at left), University of Alabama; the **Nature Conservancy's** Lead Scientist for the North America Region, **Dr. Joe Fargione**; **Dr. Virginia Dale**, ORNL; **Dr. Jon Hathaway**, UTK Engineering; **Dr. Berrien Moore**, University of Oklahoma; **Dr. Colleen Jonsson**, UTK NIMBIOS; and **Dr. Charles Perrings**, Arizona State University. You can view webcasts of most presentations [by searching their names](#).



On March 31, 2016, we joined with **TVA** and **TDEC** (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) to host [*Energy Efficiency, Conservation, & Low-Income Households*](#). **Matt Murray** was joined by **Molly Cripps**, TDEC, and **Joe Hoagland**, TVA, in putting together the program. It was attended by 120 academics, utility representatives, members of non-profits and governmental agency representatives from across the country. The group discussed ways to improve and adapt state programs

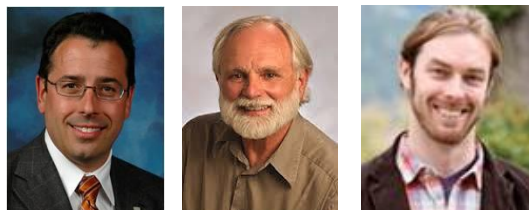


aimed at promoting energy efficiency and conservation for low-income households. Check out the presentation, bios and videos.

Baker Fellow **Dr. Scott Holladay** published three papers that will be featured in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Canadian Journal of Economics* and *Energy Journal*, and Baker Fellow **Dr. Christian Vossler** received a grant from the **US Environmental Protection Agency** for \$800,000.

The Baker Center appointed three new Baker Fellows (pictured L to R below) to its pool of experts in the energy and environment policy area.

1. **Dr. Joe Hoagland**, Vice President for Stakeholder Relations, TVA
2. **Dr. John Nolt**, professor, UTK Department of Philosophy
3. **Dr. David McCollum**, research scholar at the **International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis**, Laxenberg, Austria and UTK alum



These three will deepen and broaden our capacity to undertake impactful policy research. Learn more about their expertise on our [website](#).

Welcome new Fellows!

Global Security – Krista Wiegand and Howard Hall

The Center's **Global Security Program** has two tracks: *Nuclear Security* led by **Dr. Howard Hall** and *Conflict Processes* led by **Dr. Krista Wiegand**. Dr. Wiegand is a Baker Faculty Fellow and associate professor, UTK Political Science. Dr. Hall is a Governor's Chair in Nuclear Engineering, director of the **Institute for Nuclear Security (INS)** and ORNL fellow. The INS is housed in the Baker Center and liaises between the global security interests of Oak Ridge National Lab, Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge Associated Universities. Both tracks host lectures, conduct research and publish academic research.

Conflict Processes Track

The **Conflict Processes** track focuses on war, international and civil conflict resolution, territorial and maritime disputes, piracy, terrorism, foreign policy and US national security policy. Dr. Wiegand is joined by UTK Political Science professors and Baker Fellows **Dr. Brandon Prins** and **Dr. Matt Buehler**. All teach political science classes, direct research and help host events. This year we had several global security workshops and lectures beginning last summer with *New Directions in the Study of Territory and Political Violence*. This workshop attracted around 45 researchers and will result in a special journal issue – *Managing Territorial Conflict* in the *Journal of Conflict Management and Peace Science*. It is being



Steve Sin (2nd on the left) meets with students and faculty before his talk.

edited by Prins and Wiegand and will be published in January 2017. Last fall we hosted **Dr. Jack Shaheen** for a global security lecture on the portrayal of Arabs in film and **Steve Sin**, Senior Researcher at the **START** program, **University of Maryland**, who provided [a fascinating talk](#)

about illicit radiological and nuclear material. In February 2016, **Samar Ali**, a Nashville attorney and former White House Fellow, spoke on the [Syrian conflict](#). Her lecture was covered by **CSPAN**.



Samar Ali

Dr. Wiegand and colleagues from **University of North Texas**, **University of Iowa** and **University of Georgia** received a \$752,000 **Minerva** grant from the **Department of Defense** to fund the collection of data about identity claims made by governments on behalf of identity groups living in other countries since WWII. The project addresses several questions about how prevalent identity claims are, how these claims are managed (militarily or diplomatically), the linkage with territorial disputes and the likelihood of interstate or civil conflict, terrorism and repression of identity groups.



Dr. Prins received a \$180,000 **Minerva** grant from the **Department of Defense** that will allow him to examine the relationship between illicit, lootable resource extraction and armed insurgency. The grant will bring a post-doctoral scholar from the University of Kentucky to the Baker Center for one year to assist on the project. Dr. Prins also led a **Diplomacy Lab** class that focused on radicalization among second and third generation immigrants in four **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** countries.

Dr. Matt Buehler secured a seed grant through the **Institute for Nuclear Security** to do a nationally-representative survey on public attitudes toward nuclear nonproliferation in Morocco. The survey examines whether a hypothetical threat from Israel or Iran provides a bigger impetus for public support for nuclear proliferation. In March and April 2016, he traveled to Morocco and oversaw the successful implementation of the poll with a local Moroccan collaborator. Results from this survey will provide the foundation for a future grant proposal that Dr. Buehler will submit in collaboration with **Dr. Howard Hall** and others at the Baker Center.



The Conflict Processes program is excited to welcome its first **Baker Center Global Security Post-Doc**, **Dr. Eric Keels**. He is a recent graduate of the PhD program in Political Science at University of North Texas and will be at the Baker Center for one year, working on research related to conflict processes.

Nuclear Security Track



Staff with the **Nuclear Security** track are working around the world under the banner of the **Institute for Nuclear Security (INS)**. Created by **Dr. Howard Hall** and housed at the Baker Center, the INS staff advances education, training and research in nuclear non-proliferation and materials security around the world and host lectures at the Baker Center. Dr. Hall is assisted by **Dr. Joe Stainback**, **Natasha Peter-Stein**, **Kristin England** and **Dr. Haidy Ghoname**, a visiting post-doctoral researcher from Egypt. Dr. Ghoname led several events this spring, including talks by **Amb. Dr. Mohamed I Shaker**, Chairman of the **Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs**, who spoke on *Political Change in the Middle East & Foreign Policy in Egypt* and **Dr. Sameh Aboul-Enein**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the League of Arab States to the United Nations in Geneva, who spoke on *Emerging Regional Challenges in the Middle East*.

Off campus, Drs. Hall and Stainback coordinated an advanced professional development course for local engineers and administrators in South Africa in April 2016. In February 2016, Dr. Stainback was a special lecturer in Japan for the *5th International Symposium and Seminar on Global Nuclear Human Resource Development for Safety, Security and Safeguards*. In May 2016, **Drs. Hall, Ghoname and Stainback** journeyed to Egypt to participate in a nuclear security conference hosted by the **Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs** and arranged by **Dr. Ghoname**. The conference focused on building international partnerships and encouraging new ideas for helping countries develop the infrastructures needed to support peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Hall delivered opening remarks at the conference in Cairo. They also took tours across the country where they connected with Egyptian colleagues, successfully proposing memoranda of understanding with **Alexandria University**, the **Library of Alexandria** and **Aswan University**. Back in Cairo, Egyptian Ambassador **Gillane Allam** invited the group to dinner at the Diplomatic Club where they discussed potential collaboration with other figures.



L to R: Maj. Gen. Eng. Dr. Abdelelah Etawil, Stainback, Dr. Haidy Ghoneme, Amb. Gillane Allam and Dr. Hall

The Institute’s world-renowned experts promote excellence in global security through a vital understanding that academic and cultural exchange with government and industry is critical to building partnerships with countries interested in developing nuclear energy. The visit is described in more detail in an [article by Sumner Brown](#) on our website.

Leadership & Governance Program – Nissa Dahlin-Brown

The Baker Center’s public lectures and student engagement programs are under our *Leadership and Governance* umbrella which seeks to promote an engaged citizenry and inform public policy decision-making. Over the past academic year, we hosted more than 50 lectures and workshops. Our students celebrated *Constitution Day* (with a lecture, voter registration and painting the rock – at right), *Citizenship Day*, *Earth Day* and registered more than 400 to vote. Baker Scholar **Sam Henninger** and the **Mortar Board** launched [The Last Lecture](#), which featured UTK Chemistry professor (for 65 years!) **Dr. George Schwietzer** (at right). We hosted talks by former Senator and lunar astronaut **Harrison Schmitt** (*To the Moon, Alice!*) and Nashville attorney and First Amendment expert **David Hudson**. We expect to have a full slate of election-related activities this fall too, so be sure to **join our Listserve** by emailing bakercenter@utk.edu, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep track of all of our activities.



Baker Distinguished Lecture

On September 30, 2015, we almost *didn't* host former US Secretary of the Treasury **John Snow**. We thank Sec. Snow for his commitment since he had to make two attempts to fly into Knoxville to give his address at the [4th Baker Distinguished Lecture](#). Sec. Snow shared many stories about Senator Baker along with his experiences as Secretary of the Treasury and later with CSX Railroad. Invitations to future BDL speakers are in process, so watch for announcements this fall.



Sec. Snow receives a photo by Sen. Baker from Dr. Matt Murray

Ashe Lecture

The **Ashe Lecture** was established with a gift from former Knoxville mayor and US Ambassador to Poland,



Ambassadors Volker & Ashe

Victor Ashe. This past year we welcomed two former ambassadors: **Ambassador Kurt Volker** and **Ambassador Carey Cavanaugh**. Currently serving as Executive Director of the **McCain Institute for International Leadership**, Ambassador Volker is a leading expert in US foreign and national security policy with over 30 years of experience in a variety of government,



Ambassador Cavanaugh

academic and private sector capacities. On August 25, 2015, he presented [Values, Strategies and Alliances: Tools for Tackling Challenges to the Global Order](#).

Ambassador Cavanaugh, presently the director of the **Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce** at the **University of Kentucky**, presented [Choosing Diplomatic Options to Engage Enemies](#) on April 11, 2016. Prior to his current position, Ambassador Cavanaugh was a career foreign service officer, serving in the Department of State, Pentagon, on Capitol Hill and overseas in Berlin, Moscow, Rome and Switzerland.

Howard Baker Memorial Lecture

The **Howard Baker Memorial Lecture** series was created by the **Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)** to honor the late Senator and **Ambassador Howard Baker**. As Ambassador to Japan, he helped



Darek Baker (son of Sen. Baker) with PM Fukuda, interpreter (in back) and John Tuck, Baker Donelson, DC

strengthen the relationship between the United States and Japan, and this lecture series highlights Japanese achievements and insights to keep the relationship strong. **Yasuo Fukuda**, former **Prime Minister of Japan** (2007-08), was the first speaker in the fall 2015. He was honored in the Toyota Auditorium with a dinner following his [lecture](#). **Kazuo Furukawa**, chairman of **NEDO** (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization), was the second speaker in April 2016 when he spoke on [Realizing a Hydrogen Society in Japan](#). NEDO is one

of largest public research and global environmental programs in Japan with around 800 employees, a budget of \$1.2 billion and offices in locations all around the world including Beijing, Silicon Valley and Washington, DC. We were very honored to host both former Prime Minister Fukuda and Chairman Furukawa, along with the NEDO team (shown at right).



Team from NEDO – Chairman Furukawa is 3rd from the left.

Baker Café: Short bursts of knowledge brewed just for you!

Baker Cafés are led by UTK faculty, community professionals or students. This past year topics ranged from the environment to the economy, fracking and the courts. Speakers included: **Dr. Mike McKinney**,



Baker Café with Dr. Eric Keller (far right)

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; **Joe Jarret**, attorney and adjunct professor in Political Science; **Dr. Marianne Wanamaker**, Economics; **Dr. Danielle Atkins**, **Dr. Brandon Prins**, **Dr. Krista Weigand** and **Dr. Eric Keller**, Political Science; and Baker graduate student **Becky Davis**. This fall we plan to focus on policy and the Presidential election, so make an effort to join us in the Reading Room.

Student Engagement – Going Strong!

Since our first four appointed Baker Scholars in 2003, we have had around 240 **Baker Scholars**, **Baker Ambassadors** and **Learning Community** members pass through our doors. A primary goal is to expose these students to public policy and help imbue in them the values of Senator Baker and the importance of an educated, engaged citizenry. To do this we have developed an integrated set of programs to attract a range of students from incoming freshmen to graduate students, including group and individual opportunities: **Baker Center Living and Learning Community**, **Baker Ambassadors**, **Baker Scholars**, **Diplomacy Lab**, **Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge** and the new **Public Policy Analytics Minor**. We also support the **Master of Public Policy & Administration**,



RI members close out PP 101: Sawyer Smith, Patrick McKenzie, Hayley Brundidge and Ben Bergman

offered by UTK Political Science department and student clubs: *Roosevelt Institute*, *Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature* and *Mock Trial*. Last fall the Roosevelt Institute led a workshop on *Public Policy 101*, which helped educate students about public policy and promote the *Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge*. We are particularly grateful to UT professor **Adam Eckerd** and our many speakers: **Joe Hoagland**, **Stephen Smith**, **Don Barger**, **Gloria Johnson**, **Sue Cange**, **Fiona McAnally**, **Mary English**, **Don Black** and **Thomas Carpenter**. We are also very proud of our students and hope you will be equally amazed by all they are doing.

Seniors Recognized with Medallions and Cords

On May 12, 2016, we recognized eight **Baker Scholars**: **Caroline Duer**, **Miranda Gottlieb**, **Brandon Darr**, **Alana Stein**, **Thomas Carpenter**, **Rachel Gaudet**, **Mckenzie Ratner** and **Samuel Henninger** and three **Baker Ambassadors**: **Alex Cross**, **Chrissy Freeland** and **Roch Monnig, Jr.** on their graduation from the University of Tennessee. Each Baker Scholar conducts [his or her own research project](#) in a specific area of policy, mentored by a faculty member and Dr. Park. The **Baker Ambassadors** plan and host special events to educate the public about current issues, and they mentor the freshmen Learning Community students. They are the energy behind our voter registration drives and hosted events such as *Constitution Day*, *Voterpalooza* and *Earth Day*.



Front Row (L to R):
Caroline Duer,
Miranda Gottlieb,
Brandon Darr, Alana
Stein, Thomas
Carpenter. Back row:
Dr. Anthony Nownes,
Dr. Matt Murray,
Rachel Gaudet,
Mckenzie Ratner, Joe
Jarret, Sam
Henninger, Alex
Cross, Roch Monnig,
Dr. Nissa Dahlin-
Brown and Dr. Bill
Park

New Class of Baker Scholars Selected

In October 2015, an unusually large number of juniors were selected to be Baker Scholars – 17 in all! **Dr. Bill Park**, BC Director of Undergraduate Programs and professor, UT Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, directs the Baker Scholars in their research program. Although a large number of students were selected, quality was not sacrificed. The average GPA across the class was 3.75 and the new Scholars are among the cream of the crop at UTK, with many serving in leadership roles across the campus. Three are Haslam Scholars, seven others are also members of the Chancellor’s Honors Program and two are College Scholars in Arts & Sciences. **Welcome to our 2015-17 Scholars and watch for their published research next May 2017!**



- **Auria Asadsangabi**, Political Science, Economics
- **Hayley Brundige**, College Scholars
- **Morgan Chance**, Political Science, English
- **Travis Clark**, Microbiology, Russian

- **Alina Clay**, College Scholars
- **Roxanne de Guzman**, Social Work
- **Will Gilman**, Political Science, Global Studies
- **Christina Gore**, Economics
- **Diana Howell**, Political Science, Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- **Emily Massengill**, Political Science, Spanish
- **Caitlyn McCandless**, Supply Chain, Economics Collateral
- **Patrick McKenzie**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- **Monil Mehta**, Microbiology
- **Eric Peters**, Economics
- **Coleen Ryan**, Global Studies
- **Patrick Shull**, Political Science Honors
- **Sawyer Smith**, Political Science, Economics

Baker Center Living and Learning Community

Designed for incoming freshmen students who are interested in politics and public policy, the **Baker Center Living and Learning Community** is a wonderful opportunity to engage their inner politician.



Back Row (L to R): Rich Pacelle, Political Science Dept. Head and BCLLC instructor; Josh Cook, Greta Roberts, Ella LaRose, Nathan Timbs, Emily Scott, Carrie Grace Pody, Ethan Marks and Bill Park, BC Academic Director. Front Row: Diana Howell, peer mentor; Gabby Giuliano, Dashard Jones, Quinn Curtis, Sarah Adinolfi, Anita Voorhees, Kat Ploszay, Nora Connelly and Nissa Dahlin-Brown, Associate Director.

Students accepted into the BCLLC live together in Morrill Hall and take courses and attend social events in the fall and spring semesters. Students in our 2015-2016 BCLLC participated in a Fall semester-long mock Constitutional Convention, under the direction of Political Science Department Head **Dr. Richard Pacelle** and Peer Mentor **Diana Howell**. The goal was to create a US Constitution for the 21st Century. The result – a government led by a Chief Magistrate and President with a Parliament, Supreme Court and each state represented by subnational governments. Also included was a section on civil rights and liberties providing for healthcare, voting rights, freedom to whistle blow and much more. For the spring semester, students competed in the *Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge*, went to several social events, volunteered at Pond Gap Elementary (University Assisted Community School) and visited the Howard H. Baker Jr. US Courthouse for a tour and lunch with **Chief Judge Thomas Varlan** and Political Science Professor **Dr. John Scheb**. Applications for the 2016-2017 school year are open until full. To apply, please visit this link: <http://housing.utk.edu/lc/apply/>

Baker Ambassador Events and the Harvard National Campaign

Since 2003, we have been part of the **Harvard Institute of Politics' National Campaign for Civic and Political Engagement**, an initiative started by the **Kennedy School of Government**. It engages students from 24 universities around the country to promote civic engagement and education. This past year **Diana Howell** and **Sarah Smith** served as our Harvard Ambassadors. Howell and Smith led several events and worked to promote voter



Back row (L to R): Diana Howell, Alex Cross, Sarah Smith, Lucy Greer, Tristan Smith, Ben Bergman and Travis Clark. Front row: Chris Jones, Trevor Dixon, Caitlyn McCandless, Morgan Chance, Chrissy Freeland, William Dyer and Roch Monnig

turnout among millennials and promote immigration reform. Students hosted a **We the People Luncheon**, where new naturalized citizens were invited to celebrate American diversity at the University of Tennessee.



Dr. Tom Kim (at left) gave a luncheon address and shared his story of escaping North Korea and coming to America. Today he runs a medical clinic for the working poor in South Knoxville. You can learn more and support his work here: <http://freemedicalclinic.net/>. Students also hosted **Pathway to Citizenship as Told by**

VOLs, a panel discussion where community members, faculty and students shared their processes of becoming naturalized citizens. Students also created a flyer informing students of the presidential candidates' stances on immigration issues. They encouraged voting by creating the **VOLs Vote Task Force** – to empower student leaders on campus to register their respective members to vote. Thirteen organizations on campus joined and were trained on voter registration. Students also hosted **Tailgate the Vote** along with several other voter registration drives and provided a drop-off box for forms at the Baker Center, resulting in a total of 484 people registered as of May 2016! Lastly, the students partnered with **Pi Sigma Alpha** (Political Science society) and hosted **Voterpalooza** in February. Our thanks to **Dr. Anthony Nownes** and **Liam Hysjulien**, UTK Political Science, for their support of this event. Students and members of the community received information about the candidates and issues in a fun and informal environment in order to better inform themselves for voting in the primary on March 1, 2016.



Voterpalooza

UTK Diplomacy Lab

At more than 20 colleges and universities across the US, hundreds of university students and faculty are working with **US Department of State** representatives to research problems and offer innovative solutions to issues around the world. The Baker Center joined **Diplomacy Lab** in the fall of 2015. Diplomacy Lab staff provide questions for study on which faculty “bid.” If selected, they integrate the issue into a class or create an independent study project. Each class meets virtually with their State department “clients” via video or teleconference about three times during the semester and correspond by email as needed. To date, we have had seven proposals out of 12 selected:



1. *Evaluating Diplomatic Intervention in International Conflicts* – **Dr. Krista Wiegand** (pictured above), Political Science, Fall 2015
2. *New Media and Successful Marketing for Public Organizations* – **Dr. Catherine Luther**, Communications & Information (C&I), Fall 2015
3. *Global Survey of Protections for LGBTI Inmates* – **Bharat Mehra**, C&I, Fall 2015
4. *Radicalization of Second and Third Generation Immigrants* – **Dr. Brandon Prins**, Political Science, Spring 2016
5. *Analysis of Historic Participation of LGBTI Persons in African Culture* – **Dr. Bharat Mehra**, C&I, Spring 2016
6. *The Cost and Benefits of a Close Nuclear Fuel Cycle in Japan* – **Dr. Andy Worrall**, Bredesen Center/ORNL, Fall 2016
7. *Big Data or Big Deal? Using Data and Research in The Public Domain to Produce Actionable Guidance for Public Diplomacy* – **Stuart Brotman**, C&I, Spring 2017

Dr. Prins’ class focused on radicalization among second and third generation immigrants in four OECD countries. Sponsored by the **Global Engagement Center** in the **State Department**, students researched the conditions these immigrant communities confront in each of the four countries, the policies developed to address immigrant concerns, factors associated with individual radicalization and programs designed to turn radicals away from violence and reorient them back into society. The students discovered that many Middle Eastern and South Asian immigrant communities face discrimination, economic and political marginalization and cultural alienation. The relatively small number of individuals that join radical groups were shown to have higher rates of personal drug use and run-ins with local police. Students learned that religious extremism and radicalization are often the consequence of alienation, not the cause of it. Further, students observed that efforts to counter radicalization must in part focus on building a sense of community and belonging. The State Department noted that the student research was . . . *definitely useful and very detailed* and would be . . . *disseminated with the relevant regional offices.*

In April, **Dr. Mehra** and students from UTK attended the first *Diplomacy Lab Fair* and *Wonk Tank* competition in Washington. UTK C&I graduate student **Millicent Smith** (at left) won the Wonk Tank competition and received a paid summer internship at CSIS (**Center for Strategic and International Studies**). In May, Dr. Mehra's team (below) was invited to Washington, DC to present their project to around 15 State Department representatives. They



created an interactive online map for use by US diplomats – [Mapping LGBTI Cultural Representations of Difference in Historical Sub-Saharan Africa](#). Graduate students **Paul A. Lemieux III** and **Keri Stophel** were the developers of the map. A thank-you letter from the State Department congratulated the team and said,

We plan to send the presentation and impressive website link to all 50 embassies and consulates in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as our colleagues in related bureaus . . . The information provided can help our diplomats support tolerance and acceptance of Africa's LGBTI communities by demonstrating the communities have strong historical roots in many instances.

– **Todd Haskell**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy

Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge

This spring we hosted our third *Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge* and it would not have been possible without our students, faculty, community advocates and volunteer judges. Competing research teams were drawn from individual students and those enrolled in courses in **Economics**, taught by **Dr. Don Bruce** and **Dr. Kimberly Sims**; **Nutrition** taught by **Dr. Marsha Spence**; **Political Science** taught by **Dr. Danielle Atkins**; **Social Work** led by **Fr. Ragan Schriver**; and *Baker Center Living & Learning Community* led by **Diana Howell** and **Dr. Bill Park**. Approximately 30 teams (around 140 students) competed over the semester addressing issues and connecting with stakeholders as they learned the process of public policy development. It was very hard to narrow down the field of so many great teams, but 11



HBPPC Judges (L to R): Martha Buchanan, Pam Reeves, Bill Lyons, Julia Burrows and Don Barger

finalists were selected to present their policy briefs to a panel of judges in 15 minute sessions. A distinguished panel of judges was led by **Dr. Bill Lyons**, Deputy to the Mayor and Policy Chief, City of Knoxville. The panel included: **Dr. Martha Buchanan**, Knox County Health Department; **Judge Pamela Reeves**, East Tennessee Federal District Court; **Don Barger**, Director, Southeast Regional National Parks Conservancy; and special

guest **Julia Burrows**, Director, *Governing* magazine. Our 2016 winners: Grand prize winner of \$3,000 – **Lucas Stewart** for *Born Drug-Free in TN*; \$1,000 prize winners **Mary Waddill**, **Morgan Faulk** and **Kristin Riggsbee** for *Farm to UTK*; and \$1,000 prize winners **Mark Christian**, **Kaitlyn McNabney**, **Guinevere Shaw** and **Michael Ashworth** for *VOLCON*. Funding is intended to help move the policy proposals forward from paper to action. To read remarks from the winning teams and view images of the presentations, visit the following link: <http://bakercenter.utk.edu/11-ut-teams-to-compete-at-policy-challenge-sunday-april-24-130-pm/>



Lucas



Mark, Kaitlyn, Guinevere and Michael



Mary, Morgan and Kristin

First Minor in Public Policy Analytics

We are very excited to announce that the Baker Center is now offering a minor in **Public Policy Analytics**. It is open to all students, regardless of major, but graduating no earlier than Spring 2018. Public policy research and the growing importance of dealing with large amounts of data in all fields requires advanced analytical tools and applied data-driven experiences. The Public Policy Analytics Minor will benefit students majoring in many fields and will aid students in preparation for graduate or professional school or a career in public administration or public service. Applications to the minor are accepted on a rolling basis. Interested students should see the webpage below for more information and a link to the application. <http://bakercenter.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Baker-Center-Minor-Info-Application-4.16.pdf>

Spotlight on Students – Past and Present!

Baker Scholar Alumni: Where are they now?

Chad Covert graduated from the University of Tennessee in December 2011 with degrees in **Natural**



Resources and Environmental Economics and **Public Administration**. He stayed on and entered UTK graduate school and earned an **MBA** in **Supply Chain Management**. Chad is married and lives in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. He works as a Business Development Associate with **Genera Energy**, a biomass supply chain management company focused on supplying biomass to bioenergy, biopower and bioproducts companies. His job is to discover new opportunities for biomass utilization, design customized biomass supply chains for Genera customers and stay ahead of public policy initiatives that affect the bioeconomy. Prior to joining Genera, Chad worked for a freight forwarding company in Charleston as an ocean import document processing team lead. When describing his time as a Baker Scholar, Chad said,

The Baker Scholar program brought together some of the brightest student thinkers at UT—my group was a stimulating mix of conventional, straight-laced, research-oriented

students combined with the movers and shakers dedicated to shifting generational thought. Most importantly, our interests and research projects were as diverse as the campus's academic offerings. We didn't always agree, but the Baker Scholars were certainly my favorite group of people on campus! In my Baker Scholar interview I said that I could see myself working at the intersection of business, public policy, and environmental issues. Through connections made as a Baker Scholar, I can say that goal is realized.

Lisa Dicker, from Tullahoma, Tennessee, graduated from the University of Tennessee in May 2014 with



majors in Political Science and Asian Studies and minors in Chinese, Religious Studies and Philosophy. Lisa joined the Baker Center Learning Community as a freshman with a specific goal in mind. She wanted to be an international lawyer working on conflict resolution, and she is well on her way. After her freshman year, Lisa stayed on as peer mentor for the BCLLC and she became a Baker Scholar. She completed her Baker Scholar project on the effect of the One Child Policy on gender equality in China. Lisa is now entering her third and final year at Harvard Law School, where she has focused on dispute resolution, dispute systems design and negotiation both domestically and

internationally. She has done legal and dispute resolution work in Boston, New Hampshire, D.C., China, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo over the last two years. This summer she is working at Public International Law & Policy Group on their Syria Negotiation Support Team, which provides legal counsel and negotiation advising to the Syrian opposition. Lisa will graduate from Harvard Law School in May 2017 with her Juris Doctor.

We are so proud of you, Lisa and Chad – keep in touch!

Current Students

Baker Scholar, Alina Clay, Wins Pickering Fellowship!

Alina Clay joined the Baker Center Living & Learning Community as a freshman from Memphis, and she remains with us today as a Baker Scholar. She spent her Junior year abroad in **Estonia**, but comes back in fall 2016 for her final year at UTK as a Scholar and a **Pickering Fellow**. This Fellowship is funded by the US Department of State. Some of the benefits include:



- Up to \$37,500 annually for two years of expenses for degree programs in fields related to the Foreign Service. Undergraduates receive the assistance during their senior year and first year of graduate school.

- Two summer internships, one at the State Department in Washington, DC and one at an overseas US embassy or consulate.
- Mentoring from a Foreign Service officer. Employment in the Department of State Foreign Service for fellows who successfully complete the program and all Foreign Service entry requirements.

Baker Scholar, Ambassador, Learning Community: Will Gilman



Will Gilman is a great example of the incredible Baker students we work with every day and the experiences they enjoy. Will was off-campus for his junior year but returns for his senior year this fall 2016. He was selected for the 2015 Fall **US Congressional Internship Program**, where he interned for the **Senate Foreign Relations Committee** through the office of **Senator Bob Corker**. Spring 2016 found Will on another adventure – studying abroad in Amman, Jordan.

This internship allowed me to witness aspects of several crucial foreign policy decisions, including the debate over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also known as the Iran Deal, and the US response to the humanitarian crisis and conflict in Syria . . . This experience offered valuable insight into how a congressional committee functions and how the staffers and senators work in coordination to formulate policy or direct aspects of various US programs. Spring semester, I studied abroad in Amman, Jordan and took classes on Middle Eastern history and politics, as well as Arabic. The experience of living in Jordan had incredible moments including crusader castles, ancient Roman ruins, swimming in the Dead Sea, and scuba diving in the Gulf of Aqaba. The opportunity to live in a country that reflects so many global challenges is both fascinating and illuminating. The challenges of limited water resources, influxes of refugees, and security concerns were paralleled with a vibrant, modern city with incredibly welcoming people. – Will Gilman

Diana Howell Serving in Nashville Mayor’s Office

BCLLC peer mentor, Ambassador and Baker Scholar, **Diana Howell**, is working as a summer fellow in the



New Americans in Nashville office of **Nashville Mayor Megan Barry**. She assists Mayor Barry and the New American Advisory Council in developing policy and programming that would benefit the immigrant and refugee community. Every month, she works alongside the director in organizing what is called **MyCity Academy**, a program designed to introduce different Metro departments to new Americans.

Most recently she was involved in the planning and executing of Nashville's celebration for **World Refugee Day**. Diana notes that this experience has proven to be very valuable in assisting her with her Baker Scholars project on immigration policy and her future aspiration of becoming an immigration attorney.

Kudos to Alina, Will and Diana – see you all in the fall!

Upcoming Events for Fall 2016

A Presidential election – *Debate Watch* – *Ashe Lectures* – *Energy & Environmental Forums* – *Global Security lectures* – *Baker Cafés* --- and these are just some of the events for Fall 2016. We are still confirming dates and events, but will post those on our website and send out on our BC Listserves when we get closer to August. Until then – stay tuned and **sign up for our Listserve -- like us on Facebook -- follow us on Twitter!**

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Support the Baker Center

The Baker Center was founded with a Congressionally authorized endowment in 2003. Since then we received further support from the Department of Education, University of Tennessee Office of the Chancellor, numerous private donors and businesses. We appreciate this and use these funds to keep our events free and open to the public and support our research and student engagement efforts. Please help us continue to share the legacy of our namesake and continue our work as a nonpartisan education and policy research center by donating to the Baker Center at [UTK Office of Alumni Affairs and Development](#). Thank you!



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