

AT THE CENTER

Year in Review | 2016-2017

I am confident that the center is, and will continue to be, an important asset to the University of Tennessee, our state, and our nation. ~ Senator Howard H. Baker Jr.

Greetings! We are all basking in the relative quiet of summer. A time to regroup and be refreshed. In traditional academic form, we closed out the academic year with our Senior Recognition Ceremony and bid best wishes and goodbyes to a number of our students. This ceremony was initiated several years ago and Senator Baker himself was able to participate in the inaugural event as medallions and honor cords were shared with the students. We had family and friends participate in what has become a remarkable event!

This year we had a large class of 15 Baker Scholars who are now moving on to the next stage of their life and career. An impressive group, to say the least, including two who will be on Fulbright Fellowships abroad and three who will spend their summer as Congressional Interns. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with some of UT's best and brightest students!

The Baker Center also hosted an impressive array of speakers and events for the year. In the fall, Ashe Lectures featured Ambassador John Herbst and former Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski; in the spring we hosted Piotr Wilzcek, Polish Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. James Zogby visited in October to discuss U.S.-Middle East Relations. Because of heightened interest in free speech issues, we held a panel discussion on The First Amendment on Campus that included UT faculty and Jeffrey Rosen, who serves with the National Constitution Center. Former U.S. Congressman Bob Clement came to discuss his new book, *Presidents, Kings and Convicts*. We are very proud to have won a voter registration competition waged against the Graham Center at the University of Florida in the fall.



Our plea for voter registrations made it to the jumbotron on gameday! With the University Center closed, the campus lost an important polling site for the local area. The Baker Center stepped in and votes were cast on election day in our Toyota Auditorium.

Our faculty have been incredibly busy and productive with their academic research as well as the externally-funded research that is now a cornerstone of what we do. Dr. Krista Wiegand spent the spring on a Fulbright Fellowship in the Philippines and Dr. Matt Buehler has been at Harvard's Belfer Center.

Finally, some big changes here with our staff. Dr. Nissa Dahlin-Brown, the longest-serving staff member and institutional memory of the Baker Center, retired in February. She took a position with the American Institute of Architecture in Washington, D.C., fulfilling a lifelong dream of working in her field of passion. She was instrumental in creating all of the Baker Center's successes, and we wish her the very best. A national search produced her replacement--**Dr. Katie Cahill**, who received her PhD in Political Science from Purdue University. Katie is on board and already making significant contributions to our program of work.

On behalf of everyone here at the Baker Center, please have a nice summer and safe travels. And make sure you visit us if you come to Knoxville.

~Dr. Matt Murray, Director



Ashe Lecture Series

The **Ashe Lecture** was established with ongoing contributions from former Knoxville mayor and US Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe. This year, the Center welcomed three speakers. First, former Ambassador John Herbst to Uzbekistan and Ukraine spoke at the Baker Center about national security. Second, Foreign Minister of Poland, Radek Sikorski gave a lecture about the United States' role in modern Europe. Last, Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, Polish Ambassador to the United States, discussed Poland and the world.

Leadership and Governance

The Baker Center's public lectures and student activities are under our Leadership and Governance program, which seeks to promote an engaged citizenry and inform public policy decision making. The Center has several different lecture series to keep the local community informed on issues in public policy: the Howard Baker Memorial Lecture Series, Ashe Lecture Series, Baker Distinguished Lecture Series, and Baker Café Lecture Series.

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, Senator Baker helped strengthen the relationship between the two countries, and this lecture series highlights Japanese achievements and insights to keep the relationship strong. This year, the Center hosted President Michinari Hamaguchi of the Japan Science & Technology Agency.

Baker Cafés are short lectures led by UTK faculty, community professionals or students. This past year, topics ranged from the presidential election to the environment. Speakers included: Dr. Anthony Nownes, Political Science, Dr. Rich Pacelle, Political Science, Dr. Matt Murray, Director of the Baker Center and Economics, Dr. Eric Keels, Baker Center Post-Doctoral Fellow in Global Security, Rachel Kroynak, a doctoral student in Geology, and Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason, Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work.



Students also participated in Leadership and Government throughout the year. Baker Center students held voter registration drives in an attempt to register their fellow students to vote for the upcoming presidential election. Alongside these efforts, students also contacted the Knox County Election Commission to make the Baker Center not only an Election Day polling location, but also an early voting polling location so all Knox County student voters had a place to cast their ballots on campus.





Student Successes

Rebecca Davis, Baker Center graduate research assistant in Energy and Environment, was one of three graduate students in the U.S. to win a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Energy Economics for the 2016-2017 academic year. Rebecca will be investigating how market forces influence electricity generation companies to switch from coal to natural gas. What she finds will help clarify the role of environmental regulations in recent decisions to close coal-fired power plants. Rebecca received a \$25,000 stipend, which includes up to \$12,000 for tuition and up to \$7,000 to support costs associated with data acquisition and travel to research meetings. She will be attending the NBER Summer Institute meeting on Environmental and Energy Economics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in late July.

Energy and the Environment

The Baker Center brought a number of world-renowned scholars to campus this past year. For the seventh year in a row, **The Energy and Environment Forum** hosted researchers from across the U.S. to discuss a variety of issues related to energy and the environment. The Forum seeks to spark inter-disciplinary discussion of topics ranging from endangered species protection and water quality to energy policy and climate change. All of the talks given as part of the Forum have been recorded and can be viewed on the Baker Center website.

The Energy and Environment Distinguished Lecture Series continued this year by hosting Dr. Michelle Bell. Dr. Bell is The Mary E. Pinchot Professor of Environmental Health at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Dr. Bell's research investigates how human health is affected by atmospheric systems, including air pollution and weather.

Dr. Charles Sims received support from the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) to host a working group on environmental policy in June 2017. The working group will attract researchers in economics, ecology, computer science, artificial intelligence, and mathematics from across North America. The purpose of the working group is to utilize new advances in computational social science to determine how regulatory authority over environmental outcomes should be allocated between federal, state, and local governments.

Dr. David Greene and **Dr. Jilleah Welch** completed a study that was sponsored by the Energy Foundation and the National Transportation Research Center of Oak Ridge National Laboratory which examined the distributional impacts of passenger car and light truck fuel economy improvements on the real monetary incomes of U.S. households. They combined a retrospective analysis covering 1980 to 2014 with a prospective analysis that considers fuel economy regulations to 2025, and they find wide-ranging benefits from fuel economy improvements; especially among lower- and middle-income households.



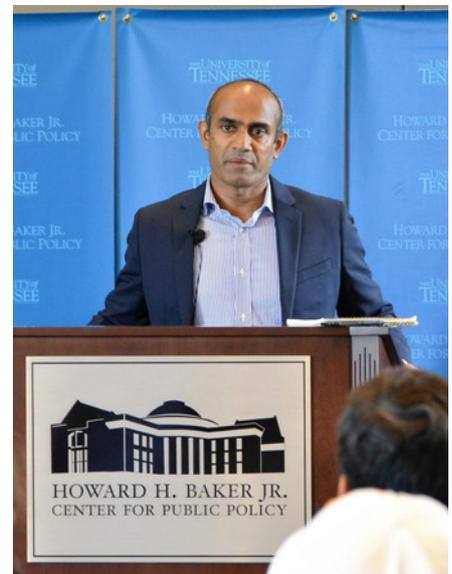
Global Security

This past academic year has been busy for the Global Security - Conflict Processes Research Program at the Baker Center. The most impressive activity has been the awarding of prestigious grants and fellowships for our Global Security Fellows this year. [Dr. Matt Buehler](#), a Middle East comparative politics specialist, was awarded a Research Fellowship, in the Middle East Initiative program at the Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, for all of 2017. [Dr. Krista Wiegand](#), Director of Conflict Processes, was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholarship to conduct field research in the Philippines for the spring 2017 semester.

Dr. Wiegand spent five months interviewing government officials and experts about the international dispute resolution of the South China Sea maritime dispute. Dr. Wiegand also continued from abroad to oversee the second year of a Minerva - U.S. Department of Defense grant, collecting data on identity claims from governments about minorities in other countries and how these claims affect international and civil conflict.

[Dr. Brandon Prins](#) also continued in his third year to work on a Minerva - Department of Defense grant project about maritime piracy, international crime, and armed conflict. As part of the grant, Dr. Prins was able to hire a post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Anup Phayal from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Phayal sadly will be leaving the Center, but he is moving on to a tenure-track job at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Everyone at the Center wishes him the best!

The program also had [Dr. Eric Keels](#) from the University of North Texas as the first Baker Center Global Security Post-Doctoral Fellow. The Center was so pleased with his work that he will stay for another year. This was the second year for political science Ph.D. students to work as Graduate Student Research Fellows, working on joint and individual research projects in the Conflict Processes research program. [Harrison Akins](#), [Mehdi Ayari](#), [Erik Beuck](#), and [Aaron Gold](#). Faculty, graduate students and post-docs presented a total of 14 papers in The Global Security Research Workshop.



Distinguished Speakers

The program hosted several distinguished speakers - Dr. James Zogby, President of the Arab American Institute, Dr. Renato Cruz de Castro, Professor at De La Salle University and US State Department ASEAN Research Fellow from the Philippines, Dr. George Varughese, Director of the Asia Foundation in Nepal, and Dr. Bulent Aliriza, from CSIS, speaking about timely topics including Turkish politics and the South China Sea dispute.



Institute for Nuclear Security

The University of Tennessee, through its Global Security Program – Nuclear Security track, was accepted as a European Safeguards Research and Development Association (ESARDA) Associated Member during the last Steering Committee meeting at the end of May 2016. [Dr. Howard Hall](#) and Natacha Peter-Stein from the Institute for Nuclear Security supported the University of Tennessee application, making UT the first U.S. university associated with ESARDA. Going forward, both organizations will pursue collaborations in the area of safeguards related research and education.

[The International Nuclear Security Education Network \(INSEN\)](#) is a partnership between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), educational and research institutions, as well as other stakeholders. Joe Stainback and Natacha Peter-Stein participated in the 2016 INSEN Annual Meeting in August 2016 in Vienna, Austria. INSEN's mission is to enhance global nuclear security by developing, sharing, and promoting excellence in nuclear security education.

Four UT students have been selected for the [National Nuclear Security Administration's Graduate Fellowship Program](#). While the fellowship is open to any discipline, UT's Nuclear Engineering program has become a major feeder for it. Chris Andrews, Dory Miller, Blake Palles, and Adam Stratz were chosen by the US Department of Energy from UT's Tickle College of Engineering and UT/ORNL Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education (CIRE) for the program, which provides full-time funding for the students while they participate in NNSA offices around the country.



Important Issues

The Institute for Nuclear Security had the pleasure of hosting Anne Harrington, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation for the National Nuclear Security Administration on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

Ms. Harrington has a significant role with the DOE in respect to Nuclear Nonproliferation “...to secure, safeguard, and/or dispose of dangerous nuclear and radiological material, and detect and control the proliferation of related WMD technology and expertise” [NNSA.energy.gov].

To this end, her office intersects policy with technical solutions among international initiatives utilizing other U.S. federal agencies, the U.S. national laboratories, the private sector and academia. We have a significant contract with NA-20 in our Radio Chemistry program.

Public Service Project



This year, Baker students led a voter registration drive for members of the UTK and Knoxville community. Baker Ambassadors partnered with the Student Government Association, College Republicans, and College Democrats to provide multiple venues across campus to register to vote. UTK students competed in their efforts with the University of Florida. The University of Tennessee won with 2,486 voter registration applications compared to 1,235 registration applications for the University of Florida. UTK students also registered the most students to vote out of any college in the state of Tennessee. The effort to engage the community will continue into the next year.



Student Engagement

Students at the Baker Center had a very productive year. The student engagement programs are designed to help teach students about the policy process, to foster the values exemplified by Senator Baker and to encourage an educated, active citizenry. The Center has developed an integrated set of programs to attract a range of students from incoming freshmen to graduate students: [Baker Center Living and Learning Community](#), [Baker Ambassadors](#), [Baker Scholars](#), [Diplomacy Lab](#), [Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge](#) and the new [Public Policy Analytics Minor](#).

Spring 2017

HOWARD BAKER PUBLIC POLICY
CHALLENGE 

The [Living and Learning Community \(LLC\)](#) is a group of freshman students interested in public policy and who take courses together at the Baker Center. This year, the class was taught by Dr. Pacelle (Political Science) and the students participated in the [Public Policy Challenge](#). One team of LLC members won second place for their policy challenge proposal. Baker Ambassadors held voter registration drives throughout the fall semester. In the spring, Ambassadors, alongside the Student Government Association's Environment and Sustainability Committee, planned and hosted an event called "It's Hot on Rocky Top" during which a panel discussed local climate change. The Baker Scholars program led 15 students through the research and writing of theses on public policy topics, from Eastern European politics to voter identification laws. We are proud of the work of the students, which can be found on the UTK repository, TRACES.

Three of the Baker Scholars have been offered Fulbright Fellowships for the 2017-2018 academic year to research and teach in cities around the globe. Alina Clay will be collaborating with the Latvian Institute of International Affairs to research Latvia's efforts to integrate in the European Union and NATO. Eric Peters will be going to Hungary to analyze third-party effects of the 2014 Russian sanctions resulting from the Crimean invasion and annexation. Colleen Ryan will be earning her master's degree in postwar recovery studies at the University of York in the United Kingdom. The Center is very proud of the work of these students and looks forward to expanding these kinds of learning opportunities.

2016-2017 Events

Howard Baker Memorial Lecture Series

- JST as an Innovation Navigator, President Michinari Hamaguchi, Japan Science and Technology Agency

Ashe Lecture Series

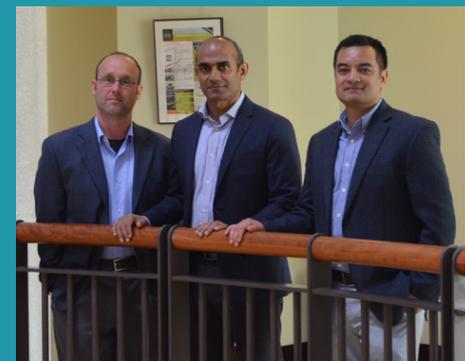
- National Security Policy: The Failure of the Policy Elite and the Dangers of Popular Reaction, Former Ambassador John Herbst to Uzbekistan and Ukraine
- US Role in Today's Europe, Radek Sikorski, former Foreign Minister of Poland
- Poland and the World, Piotr Wilczek, Polish Ambassador to the United States

Global Security Distinguished Lecture Series

- The US and the Middle East: How We Got into the Mess We're In and What We Can Do About It, James Zogby, Arab American Institute
- The South China Sea Dispute: U.S. – Philippines – China Security Relations
- Politically Informed Development Approaches in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Environments: Key Challenges from Nepal and Afghanistan, Dr. George Varughese, The Asia Foundation in Nepal
- US-Turkey Relationships: A Troubled Alliance?, Bulent Aliriza, Center for Strategic & International Studies

Energy and Environment Distinguished Lecture Series

- Air Pollution and Human Health: Reflections on Research and Paths Forward, Michelle Bell, Environmental Health, Yale University
- Wind Energy Development and Wildlife: Are They Compatible, Michael Hutchins, American Bird Conservancy
- Republicans, Democrats & Sustainability: Recovering Bipartisan Environmental Politics, Eban Goodstein, Bard Graduate Programs in Sustainability
- Analyzing the Process of Energy Policy – Why Policy Responses to the Same Problems Differ Among Countries, Peter Grossman, Butler University
- The Human Dimensions of Invasive Plant Management on Non-Industrial Private Forestland, Zhao Ma, Perdue University
- Alternative Fuel Vehicles and the Future of the Global Energy System, David McCollum, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
- Bankfull Characteristics of Alluvial Rivers, Gary Parker, University of Illinois
- The Road from the Paris Climate Agreement, Gary Parker, George Mason University
- Geospatial Applications for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Mapping, Thomas Gillespie, UCLA
- Ethical Consumerism Through The Looking Glass: The Possibilities and Problems with Fairtrade Banana Cultivation in St. Lucia, Caela O'Connell, University of Tennessee, Knoxville



2016-2017 Events continued...

Baker Café

- Who's Influencing Our Presidential Candidates? Interest Group Power and Influence, Dr. Anthony Nownes
- Visions of Mars, Rachel Kronyak, Doctoral Student in Geology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Crisis in South Sudan: Democracy, Mass Killings, and the International Response, Eric Keels, UTK
- Climate Change and Social Justice, Lisa Reyes, Mason, UTK

Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge

- First Place: "Transfer Traditions." Mia Mauk-Olson, Brittney Pekala, Maddy Minton, Savanna Jacoby, and Jasmine Blue
- Second Place: "Vols Against Hunger." James Hearn, Emma Wiley, and Elizabeth Hembree
- Third Place: "A Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free University of Tennessee." Justus Bell, Isaac Edmiston, William Gabelman, Morgan Hartgrove, and Avanti Rangnekar

Other events

- We Look Ahead: Potential Policies of the Trump Administration, Matt Murray, Krista Wiegand, Charles Sims, David Greene, and Richard Pacelle, UTK
- "Best Enemies" film screening
- Debate watch for students and community
- Baker Center Brown Bag Cyber Lunch, The Tennessee Fusion Center – Technology, Law Enforcement, and East Tennessee, Louis Kuykendall, TN Bureau of Investigation
- Understanding the First Amendment on Campus, Panel discussion moderated by Jeffrey Rosen, National Constitution Center
- Presidents, Kings, and Convicts, book signing by Bob Clement, former US Congressman
- Baker Center Brown Bag Cyber Lunch, Cyber Hygiene for Individuals and Small Businesses, Scott Partelow, Sword & Shield Enterprise Security



