Greetings from the Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education. My name is Vernon Johnson, Professor of Political Science and American Cultural Studies at Western Washington University; and for the last two years, director of the institute. Welcome to the first issue of the Munro Institute Newsletter, in which we plan to make an annual report on the activities of the previous year.

Munro Activities In Review

Over the last two years the institute has offered the following programs.

**Munro Seminar for Civic Education**

Since 2013 the institute has held the Munro Seminar in the fall on Western’s campus. It has featured panels on timely issues in state and national politics. We make an effort to combine elected officials with civil servants and community activists in order to hear differing perspectives on issues of the day. In 2015 the seminar featured panels on race and criminal justice, sustainability and economic development, and earthquake and emergency preparedness response. For 2016 we added a “town and gown” dimension to the program by having a keynote lecturer, Professor Danny Hayes of George Washington University. His topic was “The Role of the Media in the Presidential Election.”

Coming a week after the election, Hayes played to a near capacity audience in the Harold and Irene Walton Room at the Mount Baker Theatre. He offered a sober analysis mixed with some humor that was well-received by those in attendance.

Danny Hayes chatting with Western President Randhawa, his wife Uzma, and VP for University Relations, Steve Swan.
The Power of Civic Engagement

In the spring of 2016 the institute held the “Power of Civic Engagement” conference on Western’s campus on April 9th. It was an all day event headlined by keynote speaker, Pramila Jayapal (then a state senator, and now a congress member). There were six panels in the course of the day, and a film presentation on the civil rights movement in Oklahoma City, made by local filmmaker, Julia Clifford. Ralph Munro also came up for the day, and was quite a presence in the panel on public policy advocacy.

The Civil Rights Movement in Washington from the 1960s to the Present

Last summer in an effort to return to the institute’s commitment to K-12 education, we launched a summer class, “The Civil Rights Movement in Washington from the 1960s to the Present.” It featured classroom lectures, and field trips to the Lummi Indian Nation, the Skagit Immigrant Rights Council, the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific Experience, and the Northwest African American Museum. Civil rights movement veteran Larry Gossett, currently on the King County Council, shared his experiences with us at the African American museum. The institute offered clock hours and two graduate credits for teachers participating in the class. Scholarships were also made available to teachers to defray their costs. Undergraduates were also able to take it, which made for an interesting mix. Teachers were asked to develop lesson plans from one of their experiences during the week, and they are available on the institute website as a resource for educators.

New Initiatives

PAID INTERNSHIPS

An as yet to be determined number of paid internships for students with government agencies or nongovernmental organizations (nonprofits). This initiative is intended to supplement our existing administrative internship program, with some paid internships. Students can find their own positions and approach the agencies under our supervision, or they can take advantage of connections our internship coordinator or the institute director already have. Applications would be reviewed by a faculty committee, which would include the internship coordinator and the institute director.

2017 Munro Seminar for Civic Education

Western Washington University’s Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education is holding its fifth annual Seminar for Civic Education November 1 and 2. This year’s keynote lecturer is Sarah van Gelder, acclaimed author and co-founder of YES! Magazine. She is the author of the book The Revolution Where You Live: Stories from a 12,000-Mile Journey Through a New America. She is also a co-founder and columnist at YES! Magazine and the founder of PeoplesHub, a start-up nonprofit supporting and training groups in reimagining their community, resisting powerful forces that undermine the common good, and building resilience.

Ms van Gelder will give the keynote address on Wednesday, November 1st. The following day, Thursday, November 2nd, will feature two panels Community Stakeholders in Rebuilding Consensus and The Role of Political Parties in Rebuilding Consensus. Both panels will be held on the WWU campus in the Wilson Library Reading Room. Presentations are free and open to the public.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Majestic Ballroom, 1027 N Forest Street

7PM – Sarah van Gelder
“The Revolution is Where You Live”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2
WWU Wilson Library Reading Room

10AM–11:30AM
Community Stakeholders in Rebuilding Consensus
Moderator, Greg Winter, Executive Director,
Opportunity Council, Bellingham

Panelists
Tim Ballew, Chair, Lummi Indian Business Council
Jay Julius, Lummi Indian Business Council
Crina Hoyer, Executive Director, Resources for Sustainable Community
Newton Breiter, Lake Union Partners, Seattle Bringing Back Local Economies in Small Towns
Tiffany Turner, Washington State Budget Policy Center

NOON–1PM
Light Lunch and Q & A with Sarah van Gelder

2PM–3:30PM
The Role of Political Parties in Rebuilding Consensus
Moderator, Vernon Johnson, Director of the Munro Institute, WWU Professor of Political Science

Panelists
Mario Brown, Partner at B&B Strategies and Chair of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee
Kirby Wilbur, KVI Talk Radio Host and former Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party
Mark A. Smith, Professor of Political Science, University of Washington,
Amir Abedi, WWU Professor of Political Science and department chair

For more information see the institute website at:
https://chss.wwu.edu/political-science/ralph-munro-seminar-civic-education or contact Vernon Johnson, Western professor of Political Science and program director for the Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education at Vernon.Johnson@wwu.edu., or (360) 650-4874.

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www.facebook.com/munroinstitute
Support the Munro

The Munro Institute is dedicated to providing quality presentations and events. This year your contribution can help support our internship program and scholarships for teachers for our summer civil rights class. It will also help to fund the seminar and other events we sponsor in the course of the year.

Yes, I/We wish to support the Munro Seminar for Civic Education with a gift of:

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