



Munro Institute Newsletter

Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education
Western Washington University
516 High Street, MS 9082
Bellingham WA 98225

Spring 2019, Volume 2, No. 2

From the Director

Professor Vernon D. Johnson



Greetings from the Munro Institute,

It has been our plan to publish one institute newsletter in the fall to announce our annual seminar and provide an overview of our activities over the last year. This spring however, in the midst of

an active season of programming, we are publishing this second newsletter to coincide with the launching of our sustainer's campaign (see attached letter from Attorney General Bob Ferguson and State Representative Tammie Wilcox).

What follows in this special edition of the newsletter is a summary of institute activities thus far, this academic year and some things already in the hopper for the spring. Our hope is that you will appreciate our programs to bring civic education opportunities to more citizens in the state of Washington and be encouraged to contribute to our efforts to increase that programming capacity.

Year in Review

Under my leadership since 2015, we have established a keynote speaker event in downtown Bellingham in the evening and held panels the next day on campus, at least one of which was in keeping with the theme of the keynote. Last fall the theme was the role of Ralph Munro in the international arena. Our keynote speaker, David Bachman of the Jackson School for International Studies, University of Washington, spoke on the timely issue of US-China trade relations in the Trump era. That event was at the Walton Room of the Mount Baker Theatre. The next day on campus we held two panels. One was on trade policy and featured Luis Mingo, a Mexican consulate official from Seattle and Christopher Sands, of Johns Hopkins University. The other panel was on citizens' activism internationally and included speakers from various nongovernmental organizations. The Harry Potter Room of Wilson Library was packed for both panels.



Johns-Hopkins political economist Christopher Sands engaging students after the trade policy panel





Two weeks later the institute sponsored a post-midterm elections forum that packed the Walton Room at the Mount Baker Theatre. The institute also co-sponsors a handful of events in the community over the course of a given year.

Ralph continues to receive recognition for his community service. Last fall he was featured in an exhibit at the Washington State Capitol entitled “1968: The Year That Rocked Washington.” Ralph was recognized for his work getting the state’s anti-discrimination law applied to the rights of the disabled.

In February Ralph and former governor Dan Evans were jointly awarded the Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy award given each year for individual acts of political courage, uncommon character and selfless action in the realm of public service. They received the award for stepping forward as the first state to accept and accommodate refugees from the war in Vietnam after Saigon fell to the Communists.



New Initiatives

Distinguished Alumnus-in-Residence

Western has numerous alumni who are making their marks in all walks of life. In collaboration with the Karen Morse Institute for Leadership, we are piloting a Distinguished Alumnus-in-Residence program in spring quarter. We are bringing in Jessie Moore, our alum (Political Science, 05’) who worked in the Obama White House and is now doing political consulting. Mr. Moore will do a number of programs sharing his life story, and also workshops with student groups on how to market oneself to get into the world of political consulting. He is a first generation university graduate in his family, and will do programs in the Bellingham Public Schools with aspiring “First Gen” students. This will be the pilot for what we hope will be an annual program featuring a distinguished alumnus, not only in politics, but business, education and other areas of civic activism.



Jessie Moore, (Political Science, 05')



Top photo: Mr. Munro chatting with an audience member between panels at Wilson Library on Western’s campus

Middle photo: Ralph Munro assuring access to the ballot for the disabled as Secretary of State in 1981

Bottom photo: Ralph Munro and Dan Evans at the Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award ceremonies



Above: Mr. Munro, institute director Vernon Johnson and Western students on a day at the state capitol,

"What a rich set of experiences! A fantastic day!"

—Shannon Luckman, Munro Institute intern



Left: Field trip to the Lummi Nation during "Civil Rights in Washington" class,

"Oh my God! I loved this class!"

—Anastasia Tschida, MSW student, University of Washington



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Department of Political Science
Arntzen Hall 415, MS 9082
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Please let us know if you prefer email over a paper newsletter at Vernon.Johnson@wwu.edu.

Support the Munro Institute

Please take a look at the accompanying letter asking for your support for our sustainer's campaign.

Munro Institute Advisory Committee

- Keith Wagoner, Washington State Senate, 39th District (R-Sedro Woolley)
- John McCoy, Washington State Senate, 38th District (D-Tulalip)
- Becca Kenna-Schenk, Director of Government-University Relations, Western Washington University
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For more information about the Munro Institute and its activities, please see the Ralph Munro Institute home page at <https://chss.wwu.edu/political-science>, click on **Munro Institute** tab or contact Professor Vernon D. Johnson, the Munro Institute Director, at Vernon.Johnson@wwu.edu.

Munro Seminar for Civic Education

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