



Munro Institute Newsletter

Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education
Western Washington University
Department of Political Science, MS 9082
Bellingham WA 98225

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From the Director

Professor Vernon D. Johnson



Welcome to the new academic year for the Munro Institute! We are very excited about our accomplishments over the last couple of years and a period of expanded programming that we anticipate for 2019-20. In our special issue of the newsletter last spring we gave an overview

of institute activities over the fall and winter. So we won't recount those events here. Of course, that issue was published in order to announce our sustainer's fundraising campaign. The campaign continues. Its intent is threefold:

- Developing an annual lecture series, *Seeking Common Ground*, that features scholars and civic activists who represent multiple sides of pressing policy issues
- Expanding support for student internships on both sides of the aisle in Olympia and Washington, D.C
- Continuing support for Munro Seminar each fall involving scores of students and elected officials.

The fortunes of the campaign were bolstered in July with a gift of \$10,000 from **William and Jill Ruckelshaus**. Mr. Ruckelshaus had a distinguished career in public

service capped by his appointment in 1970 as the first administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. He and Jill are old friends of Ralph Munro. We are thankful for their generous contribution. The campaign continues and we urge you to make a contribution to advance our goals of providing civic education for the university and the broader citizenry of Washington (See link on back page).



William and Jill Ruckelshaus

Spring 2019 in Review

Take Back Our Democracy: A Talk with Hedrick Smith

Pulitzer Prize and Emmy Award winning journalist Hedrick Smith visited Western on April 11th. Smith showed his latest documentary,

“Taking Back Our Democracy.” The film chronicles the grassroots movements across the country that are winning reforms to make democracy fairer and more inclusive. An audience of around 120 people, including



Hedrick Smith at dinner with community members and Western faculty



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students and community members, were in attendance, and treated to a stimulating Q and A session afterwards. Smith's take away message, "the Washington D.C. based media is obsessed with things like the Mueller investigation, but missing localized stories where the robustness of our democracy and real hopes for the future lie." The institute co-sponsored the event with the Bellingham chapter of Indivisible. Afterwards Mr. Smith had dinner with the officers of the Political Science Association and several faculty and community members at Skylark's in Fairhaven.

Distinguished Alumnus-in-Residence: Jesse Moore

During the week of April 22-26 the institute piloted the Distinguished Alumnus-in-Residence program in conjunction with the Karen Morse Institute for



Jesse Moore meeting with Political Science Association members

Leadership. We brought in Jessie Moore, our alum (Political Science, 05') who worked in the Obama White House and is now doing political consulting. Mr. Moore met with several student groups including

the Political Science Association. He guest-lectured in Johnson's Race, Politics and Public Policy class and Kate Destler's Bureaucratic Politics class. He also met with first generation college-aspiring students at each of the Bellingham High Schools. Jesse is a first-gen university graduate himself. He was very engaging in sharing his life story, and also offering his insights into the contemporary political scene. His consulting firm, Common Threads Strategies, specializes in message development, speech writing and bridge-building across delicate divides. His clients range from the New York City Police Department, to the National Basketball Association and Carnegie Hall. This was the pilot for what we hope will be an annual program featuring a distinguished alumnus, not only in politics, but business, education or other areas of civic engagement.

Program Schedule: 2019-20

Munro Seminar for Civic Education: 2019

The Munro Seminar is scheduled for October 22-23 this year. The theme this year is "Education Policy from K through College." We are pleased to have landed Professor Maria Salazar of the Teaching and Learning Sciences and Teacher Education Program, Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver. Professor Salazar has become a leading voice nationally on "humanizing pedagogies, equitable and effective teaching, and college access and success for LatinX students."



Professor Maria Salazar

Her lecture will be at the Harold and Irene Walton Room of the Mount Baker Theatre on October 22nd at 6:30 pm. Dr. Salazar will also be doing a training session with principals in the Bellingham School District and will have a session with students as well. On the 23rd there will be two panels: one on higher education and the other on K-12 education. The schedule for the seminar is on the following page.

Other 2019-20 Programs

Internships

This fall we have established an institute internship program. Last spring, after a competitive application process, two interns were selected. Duties of interns include event marketing, venue/space coordination, day-of-event operations, tabling, and managing Facebook page and other social media. Applicants must be political science majors or minors of at least junior status (90 credits by end of spring quarter of the year of application). Interns will be offered a minimum of 6 administrative internship credit spread across 2-3 quarters of the academic year.

Tuesday, October 22nd

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Keynote Address:

Rehumanizing and Re-professionalizing Teaching

Mt. Baker Theater Walton Room

Dr. Maria Salazar, Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver

Wednesday, October 23rd

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Panel Discussion #1:

Future of Higher Education: Vocationalism and the Liberal Arts

Wilson Library Reading Room

- Maud Daudon, Executive Leader, Career Connect Washington,
- Johann Neem, Chair, Department of History , WWU
- State Representative Drew Hansen, Chair, House College and Workforce Development Committee
- Kimberly Perry, President, Bellingham Technical College
- Moderator: Steve Vanderstaay, WWU Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Panel Discussion #2:

Diversity and Inclusion in K – 12 Education

Wilson Library Reading Room

- Liv Finne, Director of the Center for Education, Washington Policy Center
- Kate Destler, Department of Political Science, WWU
- Veronica Velez, Department of Secondary Education, Family and Community Engaged Teaching (FACET) Program, WWU
- Moderator: Francisco Rios, Professor of Secondary Education, WWU
- Additional panelist TBA

100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment to Constitution

The institute has been invited to collaborate with the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County to put on a series of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which established women’s right to vote in 1920. The first event will be a proclamation tentatively, to be issued in Bellingham by Ralph Munro and current secretary of state, Kim Wyman on February 14. On February 27



Elaine Weiss

there will be a lecture by Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. From March through June there will be a series of lectures and conversations entitled “Toward a More Perfect Democracy,” which will elevate struggles over voting rights and other institutional challenges faced by other

historically marginalized (primarily racial) groups. From the institute side, advisory committee members and political science department faculty Vicki Hsueh, Kate Destler and myself have been involved in the organizing; and Professor Destler will be moderating the panel discussions.

Political Science Association Olympia Field Trip

Over the President’s Day weekend (February 16-17) the institute will co-sponsor a field trip to Olympia with the PSA. It will feature a meal at Mr. Munro’s home, and a day of meetings at the capitol with legislators and executive branch officials. The officers of the PSA and institute interns will automatically be invited, and the remaining 6-8 slots will involve an application process, which will commence late fall quarter immediately after the legislative internship recipients have been announced. The institute will subsidize the costs of hotel and transportation for the trip.



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

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
- Dr. Todd Donovan, Whatcom County Council member, Professor of Political Science
- Dr. Vicki Hsueh, Professor of Political Science, Director Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
- Dr. Kate Destler, Assistant Professor of Political Science



Q & A session at Global Citizens' Activism panel during 2018 Seminar

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.

Support the Munro Institute

Please support our sustainer's campaign at <https://foundation.wwu.edu/MunroEndowment>

Ralph Munro Endowment for Civic Education

AF16 dept 6641000

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