

# Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

SPRING 2011



CCPS Director James A. Thurber

## CCPS WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES

CCPS held three fall weekend workshop. The *Use of Internet in Advocacy Campaigns* was taught by Prof. Alan Rosenblatt, *Managing Advocacy Campaigns* was taught by Prof. Patrick Griffin, and *Campaign Fundraising* was taught by Profs. Candice Nelson and Nancy Bocskor.

During the winter intersession, the *Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute* and the *Campaign Management Institute* were well attended and garnered significant coverage on C-SPAN. The twice yearly courses, taught by Profs. James Thurber, Patrick Griffin, and Candice Nelson are two week long intensive trainings that teach students the ins and outs of campaigning and lobbying.

## Director's Message

It has been a busy year for CCPS! We have sponsored many programs, including events on lobbying reform, post election analysis, and several fascinating author talks. Our CCPS Fellows have been productive, releasing new books and journal articles. In September 2010, I took over as editor of our journal, *Congress and the Presidency*. My new book, *Obama in Office* was released in March. I welcome you to visit our website [www.american.edu/spa/ccps](http://www.american.edu/spa/ccps) and Facebook for updates on the Center.

## Our Events

In September, the Center sponsored an author talk featuring **Gary Noesner**, retired Chief of the FBI's groundbreaking Crisis Negotiation Unit. Gary spoke about his new book, *Stalling for Time: My Life as an FBI Hostage Negotiator*, while Prof. Thurber moderated the discussion.

In November, CCPS hosted a post election forum. The event, *AU Experts Analyze the 2010 Midterm Elections*, was held on campus for a packed crowd and featured panelists **Candice Nelson**, Department Chair of Government (SPA) and Director of the Campaign Management Institute; **Jennifer Lawless**, Associate Professor of Government (SPA) and Director of the Women & Politics Institute; **Danny Hayes**, Assistant Professor of Government (SPA); **Jan Leighley**, Professor of Government (SPA); and **Dotty Lynch**, Executive in Residence (SOC) and CBS News political consultant. Prof Thurber moderated the panel.

*AU Experts Analyze  
the 2010 Midterm  
Election-  
November 3, 2011*



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American University  
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Also in November, CCPS co sponsored a webinar on health policy with Pfizer. The panel featured Prof. Thurber and other healthcare policy experts such as **Matt Myers**, President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; **Steve Melek**, Principal, Consulting Actuary of the Milliman, Inc., and **Paul Handel**, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Healthcare Services Corporation. View session at: [www.american.edu/mhpa](http://www.american.edu/mhpa)

In January, the Center hosted a conference with the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. The conference brought together newly elected state house leaders from around the county. Remarks were made by Prof. Thurber, AU President **Cornelius Kerwin**, SPA Dean **William LeoGrande**. For a full list of speakers, please visit [www.sllf.org](http://www.sllf.org).

In February, CCPS hosted *Our Patchwork Nation: An Evening with Dante Chinni*. The event featured journalists and AU adjunct professor **Dante Chinni**, highlighting sections of his new book, *Our Patchwork Nation: The Surprising Truth About the "Real" America*, coauthored with James Gimple. Prof. Thurber moderated the discussion.



*AU President Neil Kerwin address newly elected State House Speakers at State Legislative Leaders Foundation orientation*



*C-SPAN covered both CMI and PAAI during the Winter2011 sessions. To view coverage from these sessions, please visit [C-SPAN2video.org](http://C-SPAN2video.org) or watch from our website.*

## CCPS WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES

Spring is in full swing at CCPS. *Earned Media*, taught by Profs. Candice Nelson and Rich Davis, *Paid Media*, taught by Profs. Candice Nelson and Rob Hennings, and the *Bryce Harlow Workshop on Ethics and Lobbying*, taught by Prof. James Thurber were all a success.



**Professor Candice Nelson**

The Center is now gearing up for the May 2011 sessions of the *Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute* and the *Campaign Management Institute*.

For more information, please visit [www.american.edu/spa/ccps](http://www.american.edu/spa/ccps) and click on "institutes."

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At the end of February, the Center co-sponsored the third annual Eisenhower Symposium, which featured scholars **David Nichols**, **David Ottaway**, and **Stephen Randolph**.

In March, CCPS and Women & Politics Institute sponsored a lecture featuring former Congresswomen **Elizabeth Holtzman** and **Connie Morella** in honor of Women's History Month. In addition, CCPS's **Anita McBride** and SPA hosted *The Legacies of American's First Ladies*, which brought together scholars, journalists, and former White House staff.



Anita McBride speaks at the first ladies conference, while Michelle Obama's former chief of staff Susan Sher looks on (photo: Hilary Schwab)

In April CCPS hosted CCPS Fellow **Prof. Jordan Tama's** book talk on his new release about national security. A conference with the **Center for American Progress** assessing the first two years of the Obama Administration was held on April 6th. This event celebrated Prof. Thurber's new book, *Obama in Office*. For a complete agenda, list of speakers, and video of conference, please visit: <http://www.americanprogress.org/events/2011/04/twoyears.html>

## **OBAMA IN OFFICE NOW AVAILABLE**

The first scholarly assessment of President Obama, *Obama in Office*, edited by James A. Thurber is now available from Paradigm Publishers.

To order your copy, please visit [www.paradigmpublishers.com](http://www.paradigmpublishers.com)

## **OBAMA IN OFFICE**



Edited by James A. Thurber

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## News from CCPS Research Fellows and Visiting Scholars

CCPS's research fellows and visiting scholars have continued to produce publications and research on a myriad of topic related to Congress and the presidency. Here are some recent highlights:

**George Harris** published several articles and a book this past year. His recent titles include: *Atatürk's Diplomats & Their Brief Biographies*, *Studies in Atatürk's Turkey: The American Dimension*, "Turkish-led Gaza Relief Flotilla Still Roils the Waters," *Middle East Institute Bulletin*, "A Tale of Two Ambassadors: Ahmet Muhtar and Mehmet Münir in Washington," ,and "Climbing the Greased Pole: Turkey's Islamic Democracy," *Foreign Service Journal*, vol. 85, No. 4, April 2008, pp. 29-34.

**John Owens** recently published *The "War on Terror" and the Growth of Executive Power: A Comparative Analysis*. (Edited with Riccardo Pelizzo). He gave a talk to Commonwealth legislators and legislative staff from 30 different countries at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Westminster Series: *The Committee System in the British House of Commons on the US Congressional Committee System*. In June 2011, Owens will also be giving a paper on *The Impact of War on Democratic Institutions* at an international invitational workshop at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney, Australia.

**Prof. James Thurber** has taken over as editor of the Center's journal, Congress and the Presidency. For subscription and other information, please visit <http://www.american.edu/spa/ccps/Journal.cfm>



**Jordan Tama** published a new book titled *Terrorism and National Security Reform: How Commissions Can Drive Change During Crises* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). His article "The Power and Limitations of Commissions: The Iraq Study Group, Bush, Obama, and Congress" was published in the March edition of *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

**Bob Musil** will give the Commencement Address and receive his second honorary degree, a Doctor of Science (Sc.D.), for his leadership in environmental politics this spring at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in Tennessee. Musil was at LMU as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow (WWVF) in residence there in the fall. This is the second time Musil has been awarded an honorary degree following a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow residency. Mitchell College in Connecticut awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) in 2009 and then invited him on to their Board of Trustees. Musil also was a WWVF this year at Benedictine and Ft. Hays State Universities and the plenary speaker at a national conference at Duke University on undergraduate research.

