

Tales from the Trail: AU Alumni Share Their Experiences in the 2016 Elections

Tuesday, November 15th at American University (Mary Graydon Center)

Anne Caprara currently serves as the Executive Director for Priorities USA Action, the main Super PAC supporting Hillary Clinton for President. Before coming to Priorities, Anne served as the Vice President of Campaigns at EMILY's List. In 2014, Anne was political director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, helping to oversee Senate races in 33 states. In 2011 and 2012, Anne served as the DSCC's Deputy Political Director, covering all Senate races east of Wisconsin. She spent the last weeks of the 2012 cycle working in Connecticut to help defeat Republican Senate candidate Linda McMahon. In 2008, Anne was the campaign manager for Betsy Markey, a first time candidate running against a 3-term Republican Congresswoman in Colorado's 4th congressional district. Betsy won by the race by 12 points and Anne subsequently served as Betsy's chief of staff from 2008 until 2010. Previous to that, Anne served as Chief of Staff for Ohio Congresswoman Betty Sutton and as the Deputy Research Director at EMILY's List. She obtained her Master's degree from George Washington University and her undergraduate degree from American University.

Richard Davis is CNN's executive vice president of News Standards and Practices. In this capacity, Davis works to ensure that CNN Worldwide's on-air reports and programs are fair, accurate and responsible. He was named to this position in July 1998. He is based in CNN's world headquarters in Atlanta. Davis previously served for eight years as CNN's vice president and senior executive producer for Washington Public Affairs Programs. He oversaw 20 on-air hosts and panelists and was responsible for CNN's Crossfire, Late Edition, The Capital Gang, Evans, Novak, Hunt & Shields, Both Sides with Jesse Jackson and Reliable Sources. As one of the CNN's original team members at the 1980 launch, Davis' career at CNN began when he produced the second hour of CNN's inaugural broadcast day. Davis has played an instrumental role in the launch of many of CNN's premier programs, including the 1980 debut of Sports Tonight, Inside Politics in 1987, Reliable Sources in 1991 and Late Edition in 1993. From 1980-1987, Davis was executive producer of CNN Sports, where he had on-air responsibility for all CNN sports news programs. Davis was the first senior producer for CNN's Inside Politics in 1987, and in 1988, he moved to Washington, D.C., to become Crossfire's senior producer. In 1991, Davis was appointed vice president and executive producer of CNN's weekend Washington public affairs programs. During Davis' tenure at CNN, his responsibilities have ranged from covering seven political conventions to managing CNN's on-site news coverage of six Super Bowls and six World Series. Davis produced a rare, exclusive interview with Libya's Mu'ammur Gadhafi in Tripoli and coordinated CNN's news coverage of the inaugural Goodwill Games in Moscow in 1986. In Washington, he produced interviews with U.S. presidents George Herbert Walker Bush and Bill Clinton as well as prime ministers, cabinet secretaries and congressional leaders along with other key newsmakers. Davis also is a winner of three CableACE awards. Before joining the network, Davis was an assignment editor at WRC-TV in Washington, D.C. Davis holds a master's degree in television production from the University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree in political science from The American University in Washington, D.C.

Scott Goodstein, the founder and CEO of Revolution Messaging, has spent the past decade pioneering digital strategy and technology for political campaigns and progressive causes across the country. He was the External Online Director for Obama for America during the 2008 presidential race, developing social networking and mobile platforms for what was arguably the biggest, most effective grassroots organizing campaign of modern times and a watershed moment for the use of digital technology in politics. Notably, he created and implemented Obama Mobile, an advanced communication tool featuring text messaging, downloads, interactive voice response communication, a mobile web site (WAP) and an iPhone App. He also developed the campaign's lifestyle marketing strategy, including the "street team" materials used in battleground states. Goodstein has worked with the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, SEIU, and the NAACP, among other organizations. He has been involved in more than two dozen progressive political initiatives. In 2004, Goodstein co-founded Punkvoter and Rock Against Bush, which became a \$4 million young voter mobilization effort. He has conducted political trainings for the National Democratic Institute, UNICEF, Democracy for America, the Campaign Management Institute and the New Organizing Institute. He has given presentations at Columbia, American University, George Washington University and Georgetown. He has been a featured panelist at the Brookings Institute, the Milken Institute and Personal Democracy Forum. Goodstein has been invited to give keynote speeches in Australia, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Russia and Singapore.

Noah Gray is a producer, currently covering Donald Trump and the 2016 elections for CNN Politics. Noah Gray is a producer, currently covering Donald Trump and the 2016 elections for CNN Politics. Gray comes to the political unit from CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin, where he worked as an associate producer before rejoining the team as an editorial producer. He's also field produced CNN's live breaking news coverage of crisis in Ferguson, Baltimore, and the church shooting in Charleston. Gray was responsible for CNN's first remote liveshot from a cruise-ship as part of Anderson Cooper and Kathy Griffin's 2015 New Years Eve Special, and Brooke Baldwin's exclusive sit-down interview with active duty Baltimore Police officers after the Freddie Gray incident. Gray got his start with CNN at the age of 16, when he informally served as "Youth Political Correspondent" for CNN's American Morning and covered the 2008 election from a youth perspective after launching "The Virgin Voting Project," a documentary and nonprofit with the goal of educating and motivating young people to vote. Gray is a graduate of American University in Washington DC where he studied broadcast journalism and political science and was the Director of American University's Student Union Board. During college, Noah worked with CNN on The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer, CNN's 2012 Special Election Coverage, and the re-launch of Crossfire. While studying abroad in Rome, Noah worked as a field producer at the Vatican covering the Papal conclave and inauguration for CNN and CNN International.

Polson Kanneth is Jake Tapper's Senior Editorial Producer on his CNN Sunday program, State of the Union. In this capacity, he books the headliners on the show ranging from Presidential Candidates, breaking news guests and members of Congress. He also traveled to both conventions and Presidential debate sites for CNN's Primetime coverage. Previously, Polson worked at ABC News for 9.5 years where he worked for Diane Sawyer on interviews for World

News with Diane Sawyer, ABC News Special Events and Primetime specials. He graduated from American University's School of Communication in 2005.

Candice J. Nelson is Interim Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, Professor in the Department of Government and the Academic Director of the Campaign Management Institute at American University. She is an expert on presidential and congressional elections, and also studies voting behavior, campaign finance, and campaign finance reform. Her most recent book is *Grant Park: The Democratization of Presidential Elections: 1968-2008* (Brookings Institution Press, 2011).

Ed O'Keefe is covering the 2016 presidential campaign, with a focus on Jeb Bush and other Republican candidates. He's covered presidential and congressional politics since 2008. Off the trail, he's covered Capitol Hill, federal agencies and the federal workforce, and spent a brief time covering the war in Iraq.