



Sine Institute of Policy & Politics

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

*Where the brightest minds engage
to promote common ground and
nonpartisan solutions.*

SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS



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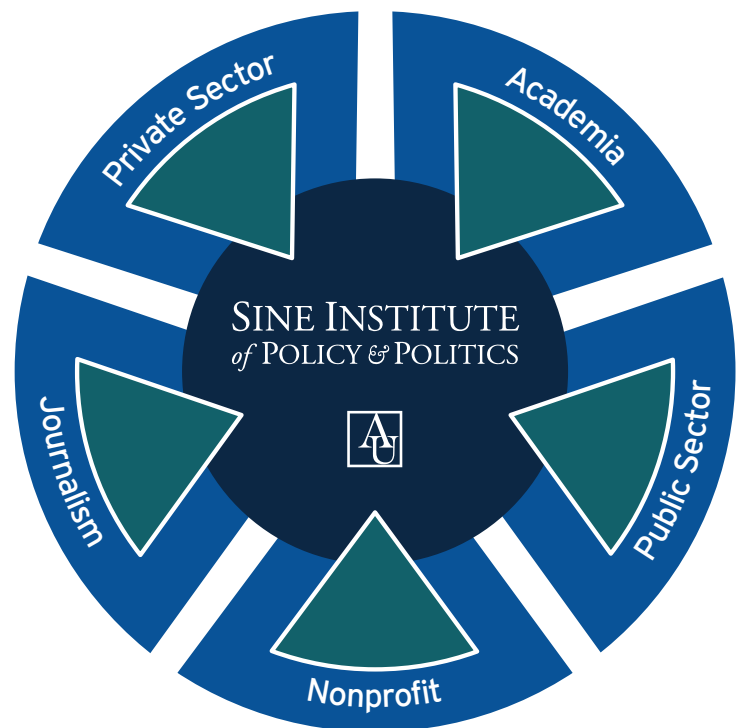
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Introduction

The Sine Institute is a laboratory for university-wide collaboration and an incubator for policy innovation, convening the best and the brightest in the public, private, academic, and nonprofit sectors, as well as journalism.

CONVENE, COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE.

Today's interconnected world offers an unprecedented opportunity to bring together experts, top scholars, and students in research and scholarship, to work on the nation's most pressing challenges in a way that promotes common ground and nonpartisan policy solutions. The Sine Institute of Policy & Politics seizes that opportunity at a defining moment for our democracy and the world. AU's capital city location, at the nexus of government and within a growing international business center, connects diverse perspectives from around the country and the world. With our world-class academics and research, experienced practitioners in international and domestic views, leaders in business, nonprofits, and government, and the most politically-active student body in the U.S., Sine makes real, lasting change in policy and politics. The Institute stands apart through its focus on the role of



business and the nonprofit community in public policy, the rise of the importance of economic regions in the United States, and international policy issues.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Drawing on their expertise in government, politics, academia, journalism, nonprofits, and business, Sine Institute Fellows uncover new

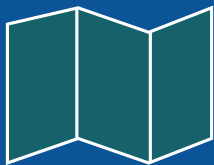
speaking up for business



policy solutions and problem-solving methods informed by evidence and a cross-sector perspective. Each fellow is asked to explore a timely aspect of policy and politics that will benefit from these dynamic conversations.

In our interconnected world, policy changes ripple through our nation at the federal level and have significant

consequences at the regional level. Those ripples cross sectors and impact international and national affairs, as well as our local communities. These complex influences are the crux of the conversations to be discussed and debated by Sine Fellows.



**Regional
Influence
on Politics**



**Cross-Sector
Perspectives
Driving Public
Policy Discourse**



**International and
Domestic Policy
Dynamics**

Sine Institute

FELLOWS PROGRAMS

RESEARCH

EVENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

TRAINING/EDUCATION

SINE INSTITUTE PROGRAM PILLARS

Fellows Programs: A cornerstone of the Sine Institute is its Institute Fellows program. Each spring semester, beginning with Spring 2019, the institute hosts six fellows from a list of innovative leaders in government, politics, journalism, nonprofits, and business.

Research: Sine is building and collaborating to provide research, polling, and data-driven information to challenge and inform the policy makers and shapers, helping to define our future.

Events: Sine curates a robust program of in-person and online events. We bring together students, faculty, staff, and community members to share insights

on policy topics of great importance, and share solution-driven programs happening on the local, state, national, and international stage.

Communications: Sine Institute plans to be a hub for policy questions, research, and solutions through its growing online social media and newsletter channels, sharing its programming and content with a large and diverse audience.

Training/Education: Sine is investing and collaborating across campus to build opportunities for credit and non-credit training and education experiences that highlight the techniques and tactics for building active policy initiatives—coordinating academic and practitioner perspectives to give a holistic view.

A Message from Executive Director Amy K. Dacey

It has now been two years since I joined the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University and almost three years since it was founded through a milestone gift from AU alumnus, trustee, and entrepreneur Jeff Sine, SIS/BA '76, and Samira Sine, an advocate for women and children and a seasoned journalist.

Little did I know when I started this journey that we would all soon face a global pandemic, a financial crisis, the closure of our beautiful campus, and a long-overdue national reckoning over anti-black racism, police violence, and systemic injustice.

Yet through all the adversity, we at Sine Institute have remained connected to our work and to each other. We learned to collaborate remotely and found new and exciting ways to educate and inform the nation and the world of the vital work that we do here. I am incredibly proud of the Sine Institute's work and our relentless team, who fought past these obstacles to grow and expand its impact.

Over the past year, we have continued to engage and challenge students, faculty, alumni, and the greater AU community, convening 55 programs that reached thousands of attendees on issues, including the 2020 elections and the impact of COVID-19, American foreign relations and the global economy, the importance of local government and effective negotiation strategies, the importance of voting and voter engagement, and the ways in which leaders can collaborate with their opponents.

In November 2020, we welcomed a new group of exceptional Spring 2021 Fellows and, in January 2021, two Distinguished Lecturers, who guided us through conversations about our



return to in-person work, how to empower truth and build consensus on a world stage, and the roles of business, philanthropy, and government in creating economic justice.

I am also very proud to report that this year we launched Reimage America, a summer seminar series that engaged Sine Fellows, American University alumni and faculty, and other prominent experts to jump-start much-needed change in these stressed and dynamic times.

Now, after more than a year of remote work, Sine is eager to get back to campus, while continuing to utilize virtual programming to extend our impact and maintain safe interactions with students, faculty, and the broader D.C. community. And of course, we will continue to build partnerships, both on- and off-campus, that will help us expand our critical mission.

This report details our year, from June 30, 2020-July 1, 2021, and what the next year holds for the Sine Institute.

All the best,
Amy K. Dacey

A Year in Review

July 2020

July 9 – The Great Divide: Decoupling Pitfalls & Possibilities with Ambassador Joe Hockey

July 14 – The Path to Recovery: What is the True State of the U.S. Economy?, with President Sylvia Burwell and Gary Cohn

August 2020

August 11 – Is All Politics Really Local?: A Conversation with Allan Domb

August 17 – The Democratic National Convention Explained, Webinar

August 24 – The Republican National Convention Explained, Webinar

September 2020

Sept. 10 – A Conversation About Voting and Advocacy with Julian Castro (Co-sponsored with the Kennedy Political Union)

Sept. 15 – Still Standing: A Conversation with Governor Larry Hogan (MD), Webinar

Sept. 28 – Presidential Debate Pre-Debate discussion

Sept. 29 – Release of African-American “Swing” Voters: 2020 and Beyond, with the School of Communication and the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

October 2020

Oct. 6 – School of Public Affairs AU Family Week: 2020 Election Countdown with Amy K. Dacey

Oct. 8 – Vice Presidential Post-Debate Analysis, with the Women and Politics Institute

Oct. 14 – Presidential Debate Pre-Event, with the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

Oct. 14 – Election 2020 Beyond the Talking Points: How Do We Move to Bi-Partisan Solutions?, with the School of Public Affairs and No Labels

Oct. 21 – Presidential Debate Pre-Event, with the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

November 2020

Nov. 2 – Presidential Pre-Election Event, with the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies and the Women and Politics Institute

Nov. 6 – Election 2020: What We Know, What We Don't, and What's Coming, with the Women and Politics Institute

Nov. 10 – Where Are We Now? Post-Election Analysis with Janet Rodriguez and Ed O'Keefe

January 2021

Jan. 28 – Suzanne Clark’s Seminar #1:
What Does a Job Mean to a Community?

February 2021

Feb. 2 – H.R. McMaster’s Seminar #1: The Policy Process: Pitfalls and Prescriptions

Feb. 2 – Congress Overwhelmed: The Decline in Congressional Capacity and Prospects for Reform, with the Washington College of Law and the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

Feb. 2 – Wes Moore’s Seminar #1: Starting with Truth

Feb. 3 – H.R. McMaster’s Pivotal Career Moments

Feb. 4 – Suzanne Clark’s Seminar #2: Impact Focus: Healthy Economy = Improved Health Outcomes

Feb. 9 – H.R. McMaster’s Seminar #2: The Case for Strategic Empathy as Foundational to Effective Foreign Policy

Feb. 10 – Gary Locke’s Seminar #1: The U.S. and its Future with China: Policy and Partnership Options

Feb. 16 – Ann Curry’s Seminar #1: Credibility Masterclass

Feb. 16 – Wes Moore’s Seminar #2: Leveraging the Levers of Government to Create Sustainable Economic Opportunities

February 2021 (Continued)

Feb. 17 – Gary Locke’s Seminar #2: The Local, State, National, and International Connection of our Global Economy

Feb. 18 – Suzanne Clark’s Seminar #3: Impact Focus: Healthy Economy = Healthier Environment

Feb. 23 – H.R. McMaster’s Seminar #3: Alien to its Nature: Strategic Narcissism at War in Afghanistan and Iraq

Feb. 25 – UnPresided Book Talk – A Discussion with Author and Journalist Jon Sopel

March 2021

March 2 – Ann Curry’s Seminar #2: Ethics for Excellence

March 2 – Wes Moore’s Seminar #3: Pushing Philanthropy Out of its Comfort Zone

March 3 – Gary Locke’s Seminar #3: What Do We Do about Artificial Intelligence and Technology’s Impact on our Current and Future Workforce?

March 4 – Suzanne Clark’s Seminar #4: Impact Focus: Healthy Economy = Vibrant Arts and Philanthropy

March 9 – H.R. McMaster’s Seminar #4: Rebutting Retrenchment: The Need for a Reasoned, Sustained, and Sustainable Foreign Policy

March 16 – Ann Curry’s Seminar #3: Warring for Truth

March 2021 (Continued)

March 18 – Suzanne Clark’s Seminar #5: What Policies are Needed to Promote Job Growth and a Healthy Economy

March 22 – Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović’s Seminar #1: The Beginning: How Personal Paths Shape Our Perspectives

March 23 – H.R. McMaster’s Seminar #5: Regaining Strategic Confidence: Competence and Self-Respect as Requirements for Building a Better Future

March 25 – Wes Moore’s Seminar #4: The Business Case for Economic Mobility

March 29 – Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović’s Seminar #2: The Future of Diplomacy: A Global Perspective

March 30 – Ann Curry’s Seminar #4: Frontline Reporter

March 30 – Wes Moore’s Seminar #5: Changing the Narrative Around People Experiencing Poverty

March 31 – Gary Locke’s Seminar #4: Running Government Like a Business?

April 2021

April 5 – Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović’s Seminar #3: NATO and the Future of the Trans-Atlantic Alliance: A Former Assistant Secretary General’s Perspective

April 7 – Book Talk - Medicare For All: A Citizen’s Guide, with the School of Public Affairs

April 7 – Career Conversation: National Security & Foreign Policy with Lt. General HR McMaster

April 2021 (Continued)

April 12 – Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović’s Seminar #4: Challenges of Building Social Consensus: Education in Croatia – a Case Study

April 13 – Ann Curry’s Seminar #5: Interview the Interviewer

April 14 – Gary Locke’s Seminar #5: From the State House to the White House, What Comes Next?: Policy Prescriptions for a Successful Future

April 19 – Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović’s Seminar #5: The Path Forward 2021 and Beyond

May 2021

May 24 – Amy K. Dacey speaks to the virtual Japanese delegation at the State Department

June 2021

June 7 – Re-Imagining America Webinar Series: Working Towards a Resilient Food Supply Chain

June 24 – Re-Imagining America Webinar Series: Reimagining our Cities: with Sine Institute Distinguished Lecturer Mayor Francis Suarez (Miami)

July 2021

July 14 – Re-Imagining America Webinar Series: The Classroom for the Future

July 27 – Re-Imagining America Webinar Series: Sports and Entertainment in a COVID World



Shaping the Future of Policy and Politics

SINE INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A cornerstone of the Sine Institute is its Institute Fellows program. Each spring semester, the Institute will host six Fellows. Sine Institute Fellows consist of innovative leaders in government, politics, journalism, nonprofits, and business. Fellows have the ability to collaborate with renowned AU researchers and practitioners, as well as the most politically active students in the country, to uncover new policy solutions and problem-solving methods informed by evidence from the public, private, media, and nonprofit sectors.

The Sine Institute Fellowship provides Fellows the space and resources to advance one or more policy solutions, as well as a platform to share their work more broadly. We offer connections with AU faculty, Institute Advisory Board Members, Fellows, and others with potential to catapult ideas forward.

2021 SINE INSTITUTE SPRING FELLOWS



Suzanne P. Clark
President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Kolinda Grabar Kitarović
4th President of Croatia



Ann Curry
Award Winning Journalist



Lt. General H.R. McMaster
Former National Security Officer,
Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution

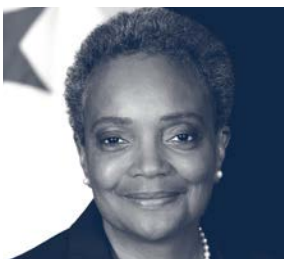


Gary Locke
Washington's 21st Governor



Wes Moore
CEO of Robin Hood

2021 DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS



Lori E. Lightfoot
56th Mayor
of Chicago



Francis X. Suarez
43rd Mayor
of Miami

2020 SINE INSTITUTE SPRING FELLOWS



Alphonso Jackson Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for President George W. Bush



John Tass-Parker Head of Politics and Government, Instagram



Cody Keenan Chief Speechwriter for President Barack Obama



Katherine Miller Vice President of Impact, The James Beard Foundation



Janet Rodriguez White House Correspondent, Univision



Susan Molinari Strategist and Former Vice President, Google; Former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (New York)

2020 DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS



Dina Powell
Management Committee of Goldman Sachs and Former U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor



Joe Hockey
Former Ambassador to the U.S. from Australia

2019 SINE INTITUTE SPRING FELLOWS



Abdul El-Sayed

Former Executive Director, Detroit Health Department; Former Candidate for Governor of Michigan



Ruth Marcus

Political Commentator and Columnist for the *Washington Post*



Bill Haslam

Former Governor of Tennessee



Karen Zacarías

Playwright, Founder of Young Playwrights' Theater and Latinx Theater Commons



William Kristol

Political Analyst and Founder of the *Weekly Standard*



2019 DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

Wes Bush

Chairman and Former CEO of the Northrop Grumman Corporation



GUEST SPEAKERS

Nadine Ajaka, Senior Producer of Visual Forensics, Washington Post

General John R. Allen, President of The Brookings Institution

Lisa Alexander, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer, Sempra Energy

Kyle Anderson, Director of Media Relations, DNCC 2016

Nathan Baca, Investigative Reporter, WUASA9

Megan Badasch, Former National Security Council Deputy Executive Secretary

Professor David C. Barker, Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University

Taylor Barnes Lord, Former Deputy Political and Organizing Director, DNC

Bob Barnett, Debate Coach for ten national Democratic presidential campaigns

Dana Bash, Chief Political Correspondent, CNN

Michael Blake, Former NY State Assembly Member

Neil Bradley, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Neil Brown, President of The Poynter Institute for Media Studies

Louis Caldera, Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law and Senior Affiliate, Washington College of Law, American University

Kurt Campbell, Former Indo-Pacific Coordinator, National Security Council

Julián Castro, Former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Connie Chang, Chair and Treasurer of the Leaver Fund

Ryan Clancy, Chief Strategist of the Bipartisan Movement No Labels

Andrew Cohen, Author

Gary Cohn, Kogod School of Business/BSBA '82, Former Director of the National Economic Council and Chief Economic Advisor to President Donald Trump, and Former President and Chief Operating Officer of Goldman Sachs

Brian Connors, Executive Director, Michigan-China Innovation Center

Robert Costa, National Political Reporter, The Washington Post; Moderator, PBS's "Washington Week"; Political Analyst for NBC News and MSNBC

Bob Crain, Senior Vice President and General Manager, North America, AGCO Corporation Candy Crowley, Chief Political Correspondent for CNN, Washington Bureau

Lisa Curtis, Former Senior Director for South and Central Asia, National Security Council

Amy K. Dacey, Executive Director of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics

Marquis Daisy, Staff Producer, ESPN Films

Alphonso David, President of the Human Rights Campaign

Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations

Allan Domb, Kogod School of Business/BSBA'77, Philadelphia Business Owner and City Councilman

Chris Donovan, School Of Public Affairs/BA '97, Executive Editorial Producer, ABC News

John Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer, CareCentrix

Curtis Dubay, Senior Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Karen Finney, Political Consultant, Former Spokesperson for the Clinton 2016 Presidential Campaign, and Political Commentator, MSNBC

Julian Lindley-French, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Statecraft

Sam Fulwood III, Center for American Progress Senior Fellow, American University

Benjamin Ginsberg, Political Law Advocate

Tanya Golesic, Former President of Jimmy Choo

Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Former Mexican Ambassador to the U.S.

Robin Harris, Author, Journalist

Fiona Hill, Senior Fellow on Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution

Fred Hochberg, Former Head of EXIM Bank, U.S.

The Honorable Joe Hockey, Former Australian Ambassador to the U.S.

Governor Larry Hogan, Maryland

Kasie Hunt, American Political Correspondent, NBC News and MSNBC

Alphonso Jackson, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 2020 Sine Fellow

Jessica Johnson-Cope, President, Johnson Security Bureau

Kareem Jordan, Associate Professor of Justice, Law & Criminology, School Of Public Affairs, American University

Ed O'Keefe, Senior Political Correspondent, CBS News

Muthoni Wambu Kraal, National Political and Organizing Director, DNC

Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times, Winner of Two Pulitzer Prizes

Tod Lending, Nomadic Pictures

Susan Lund, Partner of McKinsey & Company, Leader of the McKinsey Global Institute

Kevin Malecek, School Of Public Affairs/ BA '01, MA '02), 2008 DNC Delegate from OH

Paula Marshall, CEO of Bama Companies

Erinn D. Martin, Policy Counsel for the Public Policy Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Betsy Fischer Martin, School Of Public Affairs/BA '92, School of Communication/MA '95, Executive Director, Women & Politics Institute

Doris Meissner, Former Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Nationalization Service

Anita McBride, Director, First Ladies Initiative, School of Public Affairs

Tim McClimon, President, American Express Foundation

Mike McCurry, Former Co-Chair of the Commission on Presidential Debates, White House Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton

Brian McGowan, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce

William McGurn, Former Chief Speech Writer for George W. Bush

Jim McIntyre, President/CEO of Greenheck Group

Rebecca Millet, School of International Service/BA '84, BS '85, 2020 DNC Delegate from ME

Karen Mills, Former Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administrator

Susan Molinari, 2020 Sine Fellow, Politician, Lobbyist, and Journalist

Taryn Morrissey, Associate Professor of Public Administration and Policy, School of Public Affairs

Michael S. Neal, President and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce

Brett O'Donnell, Debate Coach for Republican Presidential Campaigns (Bush 2004, McCain 2008, Romney 2012)

Una O. Osili, Associate Dean for Research and International Programs, Efroymsen Chair in Philanthropy, Indiana University-Purdue University

Clarence Page, Syndicated Columnist, Chicago Tribune, Washington Bureau

Tim Phillips, Founder and CEO, Beyond Conflict

Joel Rayburn, Special Advisor for Middle East Affairs, Office of U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty

Matt Rhoades, Co-CEO of CGCN Group, Campaign Manager, Romney for President 2012

Eric Rich, Deputy Investigations Editor, Washington Post

April Ryan, White House Correspondent for The Grio

Antoine Sanfuentes, Vice-President, Managing Editor for CNN's White House and Capitol Hill Coverage

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Former NATO Secretary General

Susan Shirk, Chair of the 21st Century China Center at UC San Diego)

Jeffrey Sine, Founding Donor of the Sine Institute, Partner, The Raine Group, School of International Service/BA '76

Aparna Soni, Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy, School Of Public Affairs professor

Michael Steele, Political Analyst for MSNBC and Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee

Representative Haley Stevens, D-MI

Carlton Stuart, School Of Public Affairs/BA '05, 2020 DNC Delegate from PA

Susan Swecker, Chairwoman, Virginia Democratic Party

Terence Szuplat, Former Deputy Director of Speechwriting for President Barack Obama

Michael Tubbs, Former Mayor of Stockton, CA

David Wade, Debate Coach for Kerry 2004, Biden (VP) 2008, Obama 2012

Kimberly Wehle, Author, Lawyer, University of Baltimore Professor of Law

Hugh Welsh, President & General Counsel, DSM North America

Vicky Wilkins, Dean of AU's School of Public Affairs

Jerry Yang, Co-founder & Former CEO of Yahoo



Communications

The Sine Institute surpassed some incredible milestones this semester. The 2021 Sine Fellow Seminar series has attracted our highest-ever levels of streaming and engagement. Take a look at these other key milestones.



Statistics are from the spring 2021 semester.



Leadership

The Sine Institute is made possible through a milestone gift of \$10 million from AU alumnus, trustee and entrepreneur **Jeff Sine**, SIS/BA '76, and **Samira Sine**, advocate for women and children and seasoned journalist. The gift is the manifestation of the Sines' interest in making positive change that will inspire future generations of leaders. The non-partisan, cross-disciplinary advisory board joins the Sines to lead the way in cultivating and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy K. Dacey is executive director of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University. For more than two decades, she managed prominent national organizations, advised leading elected officials and candidates, including President Barack Obama and Senator John Kerry, and counseled a variety of nonprofits and companies. Before

joining AU, Amy was president of AKD Strategies, a strategic firm working with nonprofits and foundations in the progressive policy space. During the 2016 presidential election, she served as the chief executive officer of the Democratic National Committee. During the 2004 elections, she worked for then-Sen. John Kerry on his presidential campaign and, following his narrow loss, helped to lead Kerry's political operation. She also managed Rep. Louise Slaughter's congressional campaign in 1998. From 2010 to 2013, Amy served as executive director of EMILY's List, the organization dedicated to electing Democratic women to national, state, and local offices, and led the organization's revitalization, restructuring and rebranding efforts. In addition, she served in various leadership positions for several other organizations, including the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Fund for America, the Democratic

Senatorial Campaign Committee, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Recently, Amy served as executive vice president and managing director for MWWPR, one of the world's top independent public relations agencies.

STAFF BIOS

La'Nasa Clarkson serves as the administrative assistant at the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics. She is interested in foreign policy and plans to pursue a JD in international law. La'Nasa completed undergrad at the College of Charleston, where she double-majored in political science and African American Studies with a concentration in politics, philosophy, and law. While at the College of Charleston, she served as the president of the Black Student Union and research assistant for the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

Charles Leggett is the assistant director of events; he oversees and coordinates events for the School of Public Affairs and supports programs related to the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics. Additionally, Charles acts as liaison among various departments on American University's campus, coordinating with faculty, staff, students, and outside partners. Prior to joining American University's School of Public Affairs, Charles organized events for AU's School of Communication, and managed communications, marketing,

and event logistics for the Embassy of France's cultural activities in Washington, D.C.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Danielle C. Gray, former assistant to the president and cabinet secretary in the Obama administration and current senior vice president, chief legal officer, and corporate secretary for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

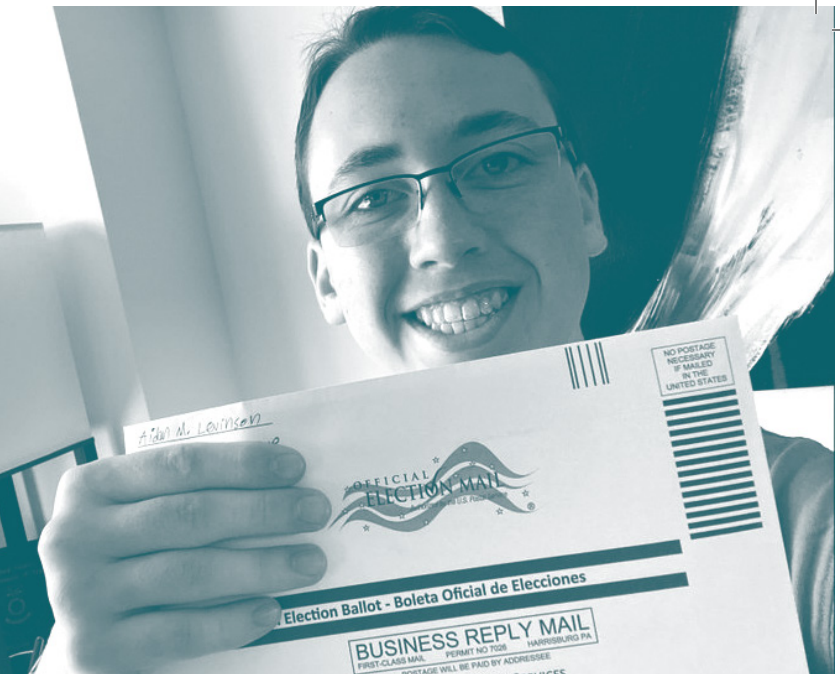
Anita McBride, former assistant to President George W. Bush, former chief of staff to First Lady Laura Bush, and current executive-in-residence at AU's School of Public Affairs.

Deval Patrick, former governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2007-2015).

Janet Rodriguez, White House Correspondent Univision (AU Alum); 2020 Sine Fellow

Frances Townsend (AU SPA/BA '82), former assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism (2004-2008) and current national security analyst on CBS News.

Philip Zelikow, former counselor of the United States Department of State, former executive director of the 9/11 Commission, and current professor of governance and history at the University of Virginia.



Student Engagement

2020-2021 SINE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sine Student Advisory Committee is a group of student visionaries from across campus elected to guide the institute and inspire the next generation of leaders. This committee will discuss student engagement, programming, and recommendations for fellows and speakers at the Sine Institute. Our second cohort committee members are:

Tiffany Sharpy, School of Professional & Extended Studies

Brendan Polomis, School of Professional & Extended Studies

Gianluca Mavica, Kogod School of Business

Khushi Khungar, Kogod School of Business

Lauren Beharry, School of International Service

Ethan Wong, School of International Service

Aidan Levinson, School of Public Affairs

Jada Collins, School of Public Affairs

McKenzie Beard, School of Communication

Ishita Jamar, School of Communication

Rachael Potter, School of Education

Emma Whisman, School of Education

Alexandria Johnson, Washington College of Law

Matthew Stern, Washington College of Law

Makenna Lindsay, College of Arts & Sciences

Kai Wasson, College of Arts & Sciences

2020-2021 STUDENT ASSOCIATES

Each Sine Institute Fellow is assigned student associates to assist in designing, planning, organizing, and executing their seminar series on campus. These students will help ensure that Fellow seminars are well-publicized, well-attended, well-documented, and an overall success.

Lewis Polay

Jack Tapay-Cueva

Samantha Diaz

Reid Fauble

Kayleigh Thompson

Ethan Wong

Robert Roseman

Khushi Khungar

Sam Murray

Pranjal Chandra

Zaria Guignard

Jennifer Thurston

Isabela Linares Uscher

Samuel Conroy

Mary Kern

Noah Burke

Kyra Thordsen

Melanie Collins

Meghan Peters

Cristina Gee

Eduardo Castellet Nogue

Jake Schwartz

Dakota Wilenbrock

Ashleigh Kong

David Brostoff

Tyler Eliades

Lindsay Schawelson

Paulina Mendoza

Olivia Geveden

Rafael Cestero

Zach Hill

Myra Patrick

Allison Wiseman

Schanelle Saldanha

Sophia Macaluso

Julia Larkin

Hear From Our Students

“Sine opens doors to opportunities and learning experiences in every sector of today’s society. I have thoroughly enjoyed the relationships that have resulted from my involvement in Sine.”

–*Aidan Levinson, Class of 2023*

“My time at Sine has been some of the best time spent at AU. The work Sine does is amazing. The last two spring semesters working with Sine have been my favorite because I got to see the power Sine has of bringing top professionals of certain fields in to work with students, and that’s an experience I will never forget.”

–*Tyler Eliades, Class of 2023*

“Even through a virtual year, working with Sine was a window into new experiences and all with a really helpful and kind team. I engaged in research, conversations, and collaborative endeavors, such as the fellowship program, around policy. As a political communication student, it was helpful to get me a little more familiarized with the policy realm.”

–*Jeni Hollander, Class of 2023*

“I think that the Sine Institute is a great propeller for students in the professional sphere. I have enjoyed my time with H.R. McMaster and have learned an immense amount about national security, career exploration, and networking. I am very grateful for this experience and have learned so much – not just about national security but my passions and professional interests after I graduate in May 2022.”

–*Olivia Geveden, Class of 2022*

“My experience with the Sine Institute provided me the opportunity to work with the inspirational, motivating, and incredibly intentional Ann Curry. I was able to lead a team of students to aid Ann in the creation and execution of her seminar series on empowering truth. By working alongside Ann and the Sine team, I have improved my management, research, and communication skills. I am so grateful to have been able to work with and learn from such a committed team.”

–*Christina Barnes, Class of 2023*



What's Next for Sine?

If we have learned one thing from the recent COVID-19 experience, it is that Sine must have a healthy balance of events, online programming, research programming and other substantive non-event related work. To address this need, we have designed working “pillars,” or areas we have identified as possible funding and programming opportunities:

These pillars include:

- Fellows/ Distinguished Lecturer Program
- Policy/Politics Events with Partners
- Training and Education
- Research and Polling
- Communications

These pillars were created to ensure that future programming would align with the mission and key issue areas of Sine’s strategic plan.

One of Sine’s hopes for the future is to expand on the academic opportunities that we provide for AU students. Currently, we are working with Washington College of Law’s Program on Legislative Negotiation (PLN) and the Center on Congressional and Presidential Studies to create a one-day legislative negotiation seminar. The purpose of this course is to give students a deeper understanding of the dynamics of legislative negotiations, and how to increase the chances of achieving goals in an often polarized environment.

In addition, Sine would like to create a space for people of the D.C. community and beyond to share ideas, find opportunities to collaborate, and work on policy solutions to some of our most challenging issues.



Keep Up with the Sine Institute

SOCIAL MEDIA



@AUSineInstitute



@AUSineInstitute



@AUSineInstitute



@AUSineInstitute

LEARN MORE ABOUT SINE



[Amy K. Dacey Bio](#)



[2019 Fellows Video](#)



[Sine Institute Website](#)



SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS