

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

SINE INSTITUTE of POLICY & POLITICS



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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. American University's capital city location at the nexus of government and a growing international business center connects diverse perspectives from around the world.

COMMITTED TO LASTING CHANGE

Alongside world-class academics and research-experienced practitioners in international and domestic affairs, leaders in business, nonprofits, and government, and one of the most politically-active student bodies in the U.S., Sine works toward real, lasting change in policy and politics. The Sine Institute stands apart through its focus on the role of business and the nonprofit community in public policy, the rise of importance of economic regions in the United States, and the impact of international policy issues.



AREAS OF FOCUS

Drawing on their expertise in government, politics, academia, journalism, nonprofits, business, and other areas, Sine Institute Fellows uncover new policy solutions and problem solving methods informed by evidence and cross-sector perspectives. 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. This complex influence is at the core of the conversation topics discussed and debated by Sine Fellows.



Sine Institute Program Pillars

FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Sine Institute Fellows Program is a cornerstone of the Institute. Throughout each spring semester since 2019, the Sine Institute has hosted six Fellows selected out of various innovative leaders in government, politics, journalism, nonprofits, business, and other areas.

RESEARCH

The Sine Institute is a growing hub for policy research, working toward practical solutions to today's biggest challenges. The Institute collaborates with professional data-gathering entities to conduct annual polls of Americans nationwide, including a 2022 collaboration with market research and data analytics firm YouGov surveying young Americans' attitudes toward democracy. This and other initiatives seek and uncover data-driven information to challenge and inform policy makers, helping to define our future.

EVENTS

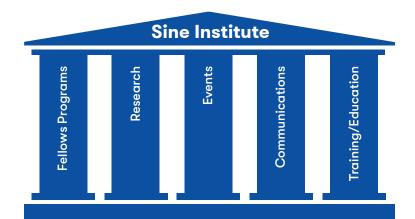
The Sine Institute curates a robust program of in-person and online events that bring together students, faculty, staff, and community members to offer insights on important issues and share solution-driven programs on the local, state, national, and global stage. In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Institute held 39 events.

COMMUNICATIONS

Coverage of the Sine Institute can be found in prominent media outlets, including *The Washington Post* and *POLITICO*. The Institute shares its programming and content with a broad and diverse audience through a rapidly-growing social media presence, an informative newsletter, and op-eds from Executive Director Amy K. Dacey written with co-authors from a variety of professional backgrounds.

TRAINING/EDUCATION

The Sine Institute invests and collaborates across American University's campus to build opportunities for credit and non-credit training and education experiences that teach how to build active policy initiatives, including piloting a "Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program" in 2023. Sine's programs coordinate academic and practitioner perspectives to provide an encompassing, holistic view.



A Message from Executive Director Amy K. Dacey

It is hard to believe that in September of 2023 we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Sine Institute. The AU community and myself are so grateful for the 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. Their contribution and the creation of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University has indeed had an impact on the University, its students, faculty, staff, and alumni. I joined as the Institute's first director in 2019. I am proud to offer this report on the work that we have accomplished, and the opportunities that lie before us.

The Institute continues to find ways to engage more students, welcome new voices, expand our research, and reach new audiences through a wide range of in-person, virtual, and hybrid conversations. We also welcomed our fifth cohort of Sine Institute Spring Fellows. Since I last reported to you in 2022, we have convened 39 programs that reached 2,329 attendees on issues that included conversations with award winning actresses, White House speechwriters, authors, journalists, pollsters, pundits, and so many other experts. We discussed the impact of the decline of local journalism, mental health, education, immigration, national security, the American economy, women's empowerment, and the future of democracy, as well as many other issues of the day.

Last November, we welcomed a new group of exceptional Spring 2023 Fellows who have guided us through conversations on how to empower truth and build consensus on the world stage, and how the private and public sectors, advocacy, and journalism inform the policy process. We supported a new group of Student Associates who had the opportunity to work with these individuals. We also launched our Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program.



I am also very proud to report that this year we launched a research program that focuses on the widespread public distrust of government that is corroding our democracy. This program will bring faculty and students together to look more deeply into these issues and will be used as a framework for future exciting projects and collaborations with other universities and centers across the US and worldwide. We also launched our "Uncommon Table" pilot initiative to foster our interest in convening, communication and collaborating.

Everyone at Sine is thrilled to be back on campus and building on our strong foundation to expand the work and pursue impact on the issues that matter most. And of course, we will continue to build partnerships both on and off campus that will help us expand all the critical work to which we are committed.

This report details our year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, and what the next year holds for the Sine Institute.

All the best, Amy K. Dacey

2022-2023 Year in Review

July

7/19 - Reboot, An Idealist's Guide to Getting Things Done: A Conversation with former Congressman Will Hurd

September

presents at Global Progress Summit 9/21 - A Conversation with Patagonia CEO, Ryan Gellert

9/16 - Amy K. Dacey

November

11/7 - Amy K. Dacey speaks at Close-Up Foundation election seminar

8/18 - Policy, Politics & Predictions with Barbara Comstock, Bill Kristol, Katherine Miller & Janet Rodriguez

August

10/6 - Cody Keenan Book Talk: Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America

10/7 - 2022 Midterm Elections: Expecting the Unexpected

10/8 - Peaceful Transitions of PowerProtecting Our Democracy

10/25 - **Gov. Charlie Baker** Book Talk: *Results: Getting Beyond Politics* to Get Important Work Done

10/26 - Women on Wednesdays: Title IX at 50: Women in Sports

10/27 - Amy K. Dacey speaks at Harvard IOP Panel

2/1 - Spring Fellows Launch Event

2/8 - Terence Samuel Seminar #1: Local News: Deserts, Oases and Solutions

2/10 - **Amy K. Dacey** speaks at Master's Top Prospect Panel

2/14 - **Bill de Blasio** Seminar #1: Leveling the Playing Field: The Making of Universal Pre-K in NYC

2/14 - **Doug Ducey** Seminar #1: Reforming the State's Economy: Turning a \$1 Billion Deficit into a \$5 Billion Surplus

2/16 - Alida Garcia Seminar #1: Preparing for a Post-DACA World: Lessons from the Dream Movement

2/21 - **Mimi Walters** Seminar #1: Overview of the Mental Health Crisis in America

2/22 - Terence Samuel Seminar#2: Disinformation and theDemise of Democracy

2/22 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: **Seth Goldman**

October



February

March

3/3 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: Anthony Capuano

3/7 - **Doug Ducey** Seminar #2: Modernizing State Government: Implementing the Arizona Management System

Mimi Walters Seminar #2: How to Solve the Mental Health Crises

3/9 - Anna Deavere Smith Seminar #1: Creating Communities of Goodwill 3/21 - **Bill de Blasio** Seminar #2: The Case for Traditional Public Schools: Lessons from the Frontline of America's Largest School System

Doug Ducey Seminar #3: Race to be the Best: Gold Standard of Education Reform, American Civics Acts, Water Innovation, Occupational Licensing and Modernized Gaming

Alida Garcia Seminar #2: Disrupting The American Immigration Narrative 3/22 - Terence Samuel Seminar #3: How Journalism Can Save Itself & Democracy

3/28 - **Mimi Walters** Seminar #3: Psychedelics: Potential Solution?

Anna Deavere Smith Seminar #2: Creating Communities of Goodwill 3/29 - Inaugural Uncommon Table

4/4 - Doug Ducey: Career Conversation

Terence Samuel: Career Conversation

4/10 - **Alida Garcia** Seminar #3: Finding Common Ground on Immigration - Is There Any Left?

4/11 - Bill de Blasio Seminar #3: Keeping Schools Open: Fighting COVID While Putting Children First

4/13 - Anna Deavere Smith Seminar #3: Creating Communities of Goodwill

4/14 - Anna Deavere Smith: Career Conversation

4/21 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: Founder's Panel

4/25 - Bill de Blasio: Career Conversation

4/26 - Alida Garcia: Career Conversation

April

6/1- Democracy Cafe

June





2023 Sine Institute Fellows



PANA DEAVERE SMITT

Anna Deavere Smith Actress, Playwright, Teacher, Author





Terence SamuelVice President and Executive Editor,
National Public Radio (NPR)





Hon. Doug Ducey 23rd Governor of Arizona



TON BILL DE BLASIO

Hon. Bill de Blasio 109th Mayor of New York City





Alida GarciaVice President for Advocacy, FWD.US;
Former Senior Advisor on Migration,
Biden-Harris Administration





Hon. Mimi Walters Former U.S. Representative (CA-45)

2023 DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS



David RubensteinCo-founder and CoChairman, The Carlyle
Group

PAST FELLOW CLASSES 2022

Julian Castro

Hon. Barbara Comstock

Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali

Richard Fontaine

Michele Norris

Shannon Watts

2021

Suzanne P. Clark

Anne Curry

Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic

Gary Locke

Lt. General H. R. McMaster

Governor Wes Moore





Horacio Rozanski President and Chief Executive Officer of Booz Allen Hamilton

2020

Alphonso Jackson

Cody Keenan

Janet Rodriguez

John Tass-Parker

Katherine Miller

Susan Molinari

2019

Abdul El-Sayed

Bill Haslam

William Kristol

Ruth Marcus

Karen Zacarias





Guest Speakers

Peter Alexander

NBC News Co-Chief White House Correspondent

Cristela Alonzo

Comedian, Producer, Writer, and Actress

Erika Andiola

National Immigrant Justice and Progressive Advocate

Governor Charlie Baker

Cornell Belcher

President of brilliant corners Research & Strategies

Sarabeth Berman

CEO of the American Journalism Project

Joshua Bolten

Chief of Staff for President George W. Bush

Anthony Capuano

CEO of Marriott International, Inc.

Betsy Fischer Martin

Women and Politics Institute Executive Director

Richard Fontaine

CEO, Center for a New American Security

Ryan Gellert

CEO of Patagonia

Zolan Kanno-Youngs

White House Correspondent at The New York Times

Jon Kostas

President and CEO of Apollo Pact

Anita Kumar

Senior Editor at Politico

Wesley Lowery

Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist

Kevin Malecek

Government and Non-Profit Chief Executive, Economic Development Professional, Administrator, and Higher Education Professional

David Marchick

Dean of the Kogod School of Business

Jonathan Martin

Senior Political Correspondent at The New York Times and coauthor of "This Will Not Pass: Trump, Biden, and the Battle for America's Future"

Andrea McDaniels

Managing Editor of the Baltimore Banner

Nicole McGrew

Founder of Threadleaf

Alicia Menendez

Anchor of MSNBC's "American Voices with Alicia Menendez"

Honorable Connie Morella

Former U.S. Representative (MD-8) and Ambassador in Residence at AU SPA Women & Politics Institute

Dr. Bonnie Morris

Author of "What's the Score?"

Dr. Karen Murphy Ph.D., R.N.

former Pennsylvania Secretary of Health

Honorable Janet Napolitano

Founder and Director, Center for Security and Politics at University of California Berkeley

Monica Pearce

Founder of Tenth Ward Distilling Company

John Podesta

Chief of Staff for President Bill Clinton

Sara Polon

Co-Founder of Soupergirl

Rachel Pulfer

Executive Director of Journalists for Human Rights

Jess Morales Rocketto

Civil Society Leader

Antoine Sanfuentes

CNN Vice President and Managing Editor - Politics, White House, Capitol

Honorable Allison Silberger

Author and Politician, Former Mayor and City Council member of Alexandria, VA

Molly Smith

Artistic Director of Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Charles "Chip" F. Stone

D.O. Clinical & Forensic Psychiatrist

Danielle Vogel

Assistant Director of the American University Center for Innovation

Shoshana Weissmann

Digital Director and Fellow at R Street Institute



Communications

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, mentions of the Sine Institute have appeared in multiple media outlets including The Washington Post, Politico, The Hill, VOA News, People, and other national and international publications.

The Sine Institute implements far-reaching communications strategies and maintains relationships with prominent media figures. We continue to foster relationships in the media so as to help spread the word about our mission and the work we do.

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Sine Institute used its engaging events and initiatives as opportunities to elevate the Sine Institute's profile both internally to students and the American University community and externally to the news media.





Leadership

The Sine Institute is made possible through a milestone gift of \$10 million to the Change Can't Wait campaign from AU alumnus, trustee and entrepreneur Jeff Sine, SIS/BA '76, and Samira Sine, an 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 nonpartisan, 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. During the 2016 Presidential Election, she served as the chief executive officer of the Democratic National Committee. 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. Amy has a master's degree in Political Science from American University.



STAFF BIOS

Molly O'Rourke is the Senior Advisor at the Sine Institute. Molly O'Rourke is an Executive in Residence in the School of Communication at American University and also serves as the Director of the MA program in Political Communication. She teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in Research Methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has more than 20 years' experience in the field of public opinion research, most recently as a partner at Hart Research in Washington, D.C. where she led multiphase research project for dozens of advocacy and nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and media outlets, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and NBC News.

Ava Gadon is the Administrative
Assistant of the Sine Institute of Policy
& Politics at American University. She
completed her undergraduate degree at
American University, where she majored in
International Studies. While at American, she
completed the Community-Based Research
Scholars program. After finishing her degree,
Ava served as an Education Fellow at the
Institute of Southern Jewish Life and as
the Education Coordinator for Washington
Hebrew Congregation, where she provided
curricula, programming, and administrative
support for synagogue religious schools.

Benjamin Bryant joined the Sine Institute as communications director in June 2022. Prior to his current role, he worked for six years on Capitol Hill, serving as the deputy press secretary for Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and communications director for Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA). Ben is originally from Rhode Island. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2012. and worked for several years in local Rhode Island radio news before coming to Washington D.C. in 2014 to serve as a policy communications extern at Facebook (Meta's) Washington, D.C. office.

Stephen Esposito 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, Stephen acts as a liaison among various departments on American University's campus, coordinating with faculty, staff, students, and outside partners. Prior to joining the AU community, Stephen worked in student success and retention operations at Fordham University and managed communications, marketing, and event logistics in the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Caleb Brown serves as a Graduate Assistant at the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics. He is a current first-year graduate student at American University working towards a Master of Arts in Political Communication, a joint degree program between the School of Public Affairs and the School of Communication.

Caleb completed undergrad at the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, where he majored in Communication and minored in both General Business and Business Management.

Sarah Gaines is a Graduate Assistant at the Sine Insitute of Policy & Politics. She is currently a first-year graduate student at American University working towards a Master's of Science in Justice, Law, and Criminology. Sarah attended Alma College where she completed her bachelor's degree in Political Science. While at Alma, she was involved with the Office of Title IX & Civil Rights where she conducted Title IX trainings and coordinated prevention programs. After graduation, she worked as a paralegal for Goodwin Procter, LLP where she specialized in white collar crimes and government compliance litigation.



BOARD OF ADVISORS

Danielle C. Gray, former Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary in the Obama Administration.

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.

Janet Rodriguez, Currently Head of Internal Communications WhatsApp; Former 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.

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

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

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.

Michelle Flournoy, former Undersecretary of Defense for policy (2009-2012) and current CEO of WestExec.

Student Engagement

2022-2023 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 discusses student engagement, programming, and recommendations for Fellows and speakers at the Sine Institute. Our committee members are:

Nedi Mouzourou

Kogod School of Business

Ella Sprague

Kogod School of Business

Devi Dutta-Sultan

College of Arts and Sciences

Jeremias Nunez

College of Arts and Sciences

David Barritt

Washington College of Law

Asad Imam

Washington College of Law

Rohan Singh

School of International Service

Payton Ziegler

School of Public Affairs

Hannah Ames

School of Public Affairs

Grace Hagerman

School of Communications

Jane Fusco

School of Communications

Oudsia Saeed

School of Education

2022 SINE INSTITUTE RESEARCH STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sine Research Student Advisory Committee is a group of highly committed students that gives essential insight into Sine's polling projects.

Aidan Levinson

School of Public Affairs

Noah Burke

School of International Service

Kenya Harris

School of Public Affairs

Dalia Habiby

School of Public Affairs

Julieta Marino

School of Public Affairs

Ethan Wong

School of International Service



2022-2023 SINE STUDENT ASSOCIATES

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

Dhruv Patel

School of International Service

Anjali Biswal

School of Public Affairs

Qudsia Saeed

School of Education

Ana Velez

School of International Service

Jack Ziets

School of Public Affairs

Alexandra Kaiss

School of International Service

Claire Phillips

School of Public Affairs

Emily Warshaw

School of Education

Kaniya Harris

School of Public Affairs College of Arts and Sciences

Joseph Smieya

School of Education

Kashvi Chandok

School of Public Affairs

Katie Nowicki

School of Public Affairs

Stephan Fornah-Ovaa

School of Public Affairs

Miles Levin

College of Arts and Sciences

Kayla Kelly

School of Public Affairs

Samantha Hessel

School of Public Affairs

Gabrielle MacKay

School of International Service College of Arts and Sciences

Zara Morris

School of Communications School of Public Affairs





Jacob Federbusch School of Public Affairs

Travis Meuwissen School of Public Affairs

Chloe Baldauf

School of International Service

Josh Hall

School of Public Affairs

Sydney Gough

School of Public Affairs College of Arts and Sciences

Ashley Jones

School of Public Affairs

Collin Brown

School of Public Affairs

Tony Kunz

School of Public Affairs

Sarah Manandhar

School of Public Affairs

Alessandra Ravelo

School of International Service

Sarah Mattalian

School of Communications

Alyssa Levin

School of Public Affairs





Abigail Wolfe

School of Public Affairs

Nika Gogishvili-Matthews

Kogod School of Business

Anshul Sukla

School of Public Affairs

Tyler Eliades

School of Public Affairs

Charles Simon

School of Public Affairs

Juan Pablo Villasmil

School of International Service

Madeline Mielenz

School of Public Affairs

Payton Ziegler

School of Public Affairs

Jack Tapay-Cueva

School of International Service College of Arts and Sciences

Jane Fusco

School of Communications

Matthew Zito

School of Public Affairs

Jeremy Ward

School of Public Affairs

2023 RECIPIENTS OF THE COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

The Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate program provides a unique opportunity for AU undergraduate students to expand their knowledge of Politics and Policy in today's world while exploring and developing their individual leadership styles, skills and values. 27 students completed their certificates this year.

Jeremy Acaba

School of International Service

Jackson Beauregard

School of Public Affairs

Caleb Brown

School of Public Affairs

Tyler Eliades

School of Public Affairs

Sydney Gough

School of Public Affairs College of Arts and Sciences

Mikayil Guluzade

School of Public Affairs

Kaniya Harris

School of Public Affairs College of Arts and Sciences

Samatha Hessel

School of Public Affairs

Lily Larsen

School of Public Affairs

Aidan Levinson

School of Public Affairs

Rossana Lopez

School of International Service

Dean Mabie

School of Public Affairs



Sebastian Mahal

School of Public Affairs

Aaron Miller

School of Public Affairs

Graham Miller

School of Public Affairs

Jocelyn Parker

School of International Service

Daniel Punales

School of Public Affairs College of Arts and Sciences

Tamara Quinlan

School of Communications School of International Service

Edwin Santos

School of Public Affairs

Yeabsera Semere Mengistu

School of Public Affairs

Rashmi Sunder

School of Public Affairs

Mauricio Alexander Tschernu

School of International Service

Ifeanyi Umunna

School of Public Affairs

Juan Villasmil

School of International Service

Emily Warshaw

School of Education

Corliss Wilson

School of International Service

Payton Ziegler

School of Public Affairs





Hear From Our Students

"Throughout the seven Sine Institute events I attended, I had the unique opportunity to be exposed to various interdisciplinary approaches to the issues facing the United States. From psychedelic research, to addressing immigration reform, to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on America's children, the seminars effortlessly demonstrated the attributes imperative for the leadership of tomorrow."

- Daniel Punales (SPA & SOC)

"The seminars that I attended taught me a lot about the importance and efficacy of different leadership styles."- Sydney Gough (SPA & SOC)

"Getting to hear such knowledgeable and experienced individuals share their stories in public life and express their opinions on issues and topics taught me so much. From hearing everything from education to immigration, I was able to access deep and crucial information that every person should be aware of. " - Samantha Hessel (SPA)

"Being apart of these sessions were just what I needed as a graduating MA Special Education student. I left these sessions feeling empowered and wanting to consume more." - Emily Warshaw (SOE)





New Sine Institute Programs 2022-2023

UNCOMMON TABLE

In March 2023, the Sine Institute and students from event cosponsor University of California Berkley Center for Security in Politics (CSP) joined with students from special guest Northern Virginia Community College for an "Uncommon Table" discussion to highlight the importance of discussing important topics and connecting with others with different backgrounds and opinions. The event included a panel discussion on the future of democracy and the importance of collaborative conversation featuring UC Berkley CSP Founder and Faculty Director Janet Napolitano, Sine Fellow and Center for a New American Security (CNAS) CEO Richard Fontaine, and brilliant corners Research & Strategy Founder and President Cornell Belcher.

"What we are doing is bringing people together from all walks of life to see how and whether we as Americans can find a common language and a way to still hear and talk with each other in this cluttered and complicated democracy."

 Hon. Janet Napolitano, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for Security in Politics at UC Berkeley





SINE INSTITUTE POLL

In November 2022, the Sine Institute, in partnership with YouGov, conducted "Sine of the Times," a poll of young Americans that revealed a positive outlook for the future of American democracy, public policy, and political discourse. The survey of 3,144 young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 revealed that young Americans place a premium on treating others with respect, dignity, and tolerance, and that they are confident that they and their peers have the power to sustain and improve the nation's institutions. The Sine Institute worked with an advisory group of AU graduate and undergraduate students from across the university to help design the poll, formulate its questions, and provide feedback on the survey methodology and results.

"I'm hopeful that once our generation gets into politics and are elected into office that we'll be able to come together to solve these issues and have a lot more common ground than we see right now in politics."

- Noah Burke, School of International Service (SIS)



CAREER CONVERSATIONS

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Sine Institute debuted its "Career Conversations" series. In these engaging discussions, moderated by American University alumni, the 2023 Sine Institute Fellows took the time to reflect on their career trajectories and offered guidance to AU students as they prepare to graduate and enter the workforce. The conversations were cosponsored by the American University Alumni Association and the American University Career Center.

"I will carry the lesson of being bold and fearless, not being afraid of failure because that builds one's perseverance and may lead one down a different path maybe not intended but ends up exactly where you should be at the right time." - Corliss Wilson, School of International Service (SIS)





COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Sine Institute presented American University students with a opportunity to show their interest in and dedication to Sine's programming by earning the Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program. In order to succeed, students needed to attend the February 1st event introducing the 2023 cohort of Fellows as well as attend at least seven Sine Seminars/Career Conversations throughout the semester. In late April, the Sine Institute celebrated certificate recipients as well as other special student guests at an end-of-semester gathering.

"I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to "convene, communicate, and collaborate" with the Sine Institute 2023 Fellows! I also want to thank Amy K. Dacey and the amazing team at the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics for their outstanding work throughout this past year. The commitment to innovation and equity-based programming has truly made an impact on members of the AU community such as myself and I am grateful for this amazing experience!" - Yeabsera Mengistu, School of Public Affairs (SPA)

What's Next for Sine?

As we look forward to the future, Sine will 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. This year Sine designed a pilot program "Collaborative Leadership Certification Program" through our Spring Fellows program and we had robust participation and more than half of those applying receiving their certificate. We plan to strengthen and expand the program in Spring 2024 and find other ways to engage students in our programming.

We launched our first polling project, the "Sine of Things to Come," with a look at 18-34 year olds' impressions on our institutions and policy issues, and how they engage in policy and politics. We will continue that program with a new polling project in 2023 that will focus more deeply on this age cohort and design research to help not only learn more about this group but use this data to inform and direct the work of the Institute.

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





"The Sine Institute has completed another successful academic year bringing voices and viewpoints together to tackle our nation's most pressing issues. We were also proud to introduce new programs like our Uncommon Table, Collaborative Leadership Certification Program, Sine of the Times poll, and Career Conversation series. I've been thrilled this academic year at the student involvement in our programs and events as well as the enthusiastic reception we've received from the AU community."

-Amy K. Dacey SPA/MA '95 (Executive Director, Sine Institute) "The School of Public Affairs and the Sine Institute share the vision that our students are enriched by the discussions, events, and other programming that we convene together to illustrate the value of civil and constructive dialogue. This is the pathway towards exploring solutions to today's challenges. Congratulations to the Sine Institute on another successful academic year!"-Dean Vicky Wilkins (American University School of Public Affairs)

"The Sine Institute's mix of in-depth policy discourse and real-time political analysis with students, faculty, practitioners, and special guests sets it apart and enhances its impact and reach. Through the Sine Institute, AU students passion to change the world for the better intersects with experience, connections, and advice that will help them succeed in their current and future endeavors. Congratulations to Amy and the team on another successful academic year!"

-Jeff Sine SIS/BA '76 (Sine Institute Founder)

"The Sine Institute shows us the impact that's possible when you bring people with diverse backgrounds and different perspectives together for civil and constructive dialogue. Only at American University do governors, mayors, members of Congress, reporters, actors, and playwrights gather to help the next generation of changemakers prepare for impactful lives and careers of service. In a hallmark of AU's unique experiential learning, our students engaged with this cohort of changemaking Fellows to not only gain insight on today's greatest challenges, but to take a handson approach to implementing solutions."

-President Sylvia Burwell (American University)



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