University of Pittsburgh | Institute of Politics

Announcements:

- Welcome new IOP team members!
- **Save the Date: 2025 Regional Progress Forum, *Strengthening the Foundation for Shared Economic Opportunities and Growth across Western Pennsylvania*** to be held at the Heinz History Center on September 25, 2025, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **Call for Nominations for the 2025 Coleman Award for Excellence in Community Service! Deadline July 30, 2025.** To review past awardees and to submit a nomination, please click here.
- The 2023-2024 IOP Annual Report, *Creating Change through Research and Policy*, is available.
- IOP student program internship applications now open for **IOP Policy Interns**, **Elsie Hillman Honors Scholars**, and **Ambassadors for Civic Engagement (ACE) Fellowship**.

Welcome New Staff!

The IOP welcomed three new team members:



(Akaia Oatis)

Akaia Oatis joined the IOP in October 2024 as a Student Program Coordinator. Akaia holds a Bachelor of Arts & Science in Philosophy and an MBA from Ohio University. Originally from Ohio, she is dedicated to continuing her education and deepening her expertise in public service and civic engagement. As a former Graduate Student Project Manager in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Ohio University, Akaia led successful, impactful events with students, fostering inclusivity and collaboration across campus. She is eager to work with students, faculty, and community partners to develop programs that inspire civic participation and meaningful change in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Read Akaia's full bio.

Laura Stephany joined the IOP in November 2024 as a Senior Policy Analyst. Laura brings more than a decade of experience in public policy, nonpartisan advocacy, health equity, and nonprofit leadership. Laura comes to the IOP from the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at the Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, where she worked as a Senior State Policy Analyst. In her role at this national organization, Laura analyzed the development, adoption, and implementation of health, economic and family support, and early learning policies and served as a resource to state-level policymakers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Prior to this national work, Laura served as Health Policy Manager at Allies for Children in Pittsburgh. She earned both a Master of Public Policy and Management degree and her undergraduate degree from Pitt.



(Laura Stephany)

Read Laura's full bio.



(Drew Pack)

Drew Pack joined the IOP in January 2025 as a Senior Policy Analyst. Drew brings close to two decades of experience in community and economic development. He has worked for the Federal Reserve Bank both at the St. Louis Fed and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Pittsburgh branch as a Regional Outreach Manager for Community Development. His work involved intensive collaboration with community members, nonprofit and education leaders, elected and public officials, the private sector, and economists addressing issues across Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia. Drew earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Auburn and his undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi and is passionate about improving the economic well-being of lower income individuals and communities.

Read Drew's full bio.

Congratulations!

Elsie Hillman Lifetime Achievement Awardees



(from left: Samantha Balbier, Director of the Institute of Politics and Elsie Hillman Civic Forum; Joanna McClinton, Speaker of the state House; state Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward; Debra Todd, Supreme Court Chief Justice; and Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor Emeritus and Chair of the Institute of Politics)

On Wednesday, March 12, the Institute of Politics honored House Speaker Joanna McClinton, state Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward, and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Todd with the 2025 Elsie Hilliard Hillman Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service. The awardees are the first women to hold their respective positions.

The evening served as a celebration of the amazing legacy of Elsie Hillman, the tenth anniversary of the Elsie Hillman Civic Forum of the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics, and National Women's History Month. The honorees also participated in a discussion on women in leadership, governance, and politics that was moderated by Samantha Balbier, Director of the Institute of Politics.

Ann M. Dykstra Awardees

The Ann M. Dykstra Award was established to honor the legacy of Dr. Ann M. Dykstra, a founding faculty member and co-instructor of the Internship & Seminar program for its first 15 years. In 1989, Ann began serving as the Director of Commonwealth Relations at the University of Pittsburgh, representing the university in Harrisburg until 2001. This prestigious award is presented each semester to one student who best exemplifies the qualities of a distinguished scholar and a dedicated public servant.



(Ilan Ziv)

Fall 2024

Congratulations to Ilan Ziv, the Fall 2024 recipient of the Ann M. Dykstra Award. Ilan is a Junior at the University of Pittsburgh, studying Political Science and Urban Planning. He grew interested in politics and planning while growing up in his hometown of Washington, DC. This semester, he was an intern in the office of Councilman Anthony Coghill representing Pittsburgh's 4th District. He has continued working at the City Council office and is looking forward to a career in law and policy.

Spring 2025

Congratulations to Nasrin Nahnooch, the Spring 2025 recipient of the Ann M. Dykstra Award. Nasrin, a Junior, is a TRIO McNair Scholar in the Honors College, and is triple majoring in Law, Criminal Justice, and Society, Sociology & International Studies, with guaranteed admission to Pitt Law through the GAP program. She is passionate about zoning issues and interned in Pittsburgh City Council's 3rd District with Councilman Bob Charland. Nasrin has been hired as a Constituent Liaison for City Council's 3rd District, and is excited to continue her work to make Pittsburgh more affordable.



(Nasrin Nahnooch)

Fulton Awardees

The James G. Fulton Political Internship Award honors the legacy of James G. Fulton, a former Congressman from Western Pennsylvania. The scholarship supports local students at the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus who are from Southwestern Pennsylvania and participate in the Institute of Politics Internship and Seminar program.

Fall 2024 Fulton Award Recipients:



(Mia Flaherty)



(Rishi Mukherjee)



(Michael Sipper)

Special thanks to Representative Dan Deasy, Representative Arvind Venkat, and Congressman Chris Deluzio for hosting each of our Fall 2024 Fulton Awardees in their district offices!

Spring 2025 Fulton Award Recipients:



(Jade Chatman)



(Gideon Lauda)



(Callie Stoltz)



(Michael Wockenfuss)

Special thanks to Senator Jay Costa, Representative Arvind Venkat, Senator Nick Pisciottano, and Congressman Chris Deluzio for hosting each of our Spring 2025 Fulton Awardees in their district offices!

The Dick Thornburgh Forum Disability Service Award



(Katherine Du)

The Dick Thornburgh Forum Disability Service Award is available each year to a University of Pittsburgh student from any campus whose service has made a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. Candidates for this award may be nominated by a University of Pittsburgh faculty or staff member or they may apply themselves. The applicant may or may not have a disability.

Katherine Du is a third year medical student and founder of Mindful Exchanges, a global nonprofit that hosts free mental health seminars for youth in various communities, especially those who are underserved, underprivileged, or experience stigma. Katherine has hosted youth mental health sessions over the last five years and hosted mindfulness activities for vision-impaired youth at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. This year, Katherine started a podcast for Mindful Exchanges interviewing vision-impaired individuals globally about their life stories and mental health perspectives.

The J. Evans Rose, Jr. Prize for Government Service

The $5,000 J. Evans Rose, Jr. Prize for Government Service is available each year to a graduating Pitt Law School student whose goal is to pursue a career in government service, whether at the local, county, state, federal, or international level. Learn more about J. Evans Rose, Jr.

Benjamin Blanks will graduate from Pitt Law School in May 2025. Benjamin has worked in the Prisoners' Lives Matter campaign and also spent two summers interning in the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender, where he will begin work as a clerk in August 2025. Benjamin's volunteer service includes work with Death Penalty Action and The Trevor Project.



(Benjamin Blanks)

Dick Thornburgh Prize for Legal Service



(Caleb Lingenfelter)

The $5,000 Dick Thornburgh Prize for Legal Service is available each year to a graduating Pitt Law School student who has provided legal assistance to low-income individuals through a legal services organization in law school and intends to continue in such service. Learn about Dick Thornburgh's lifelong career.

Caleb Lingenfelter, who will graduate from Pitt Law School in May 2025, is a first-generation law student whose work has included two summers in the courtroom of the York County, Pennsylvania Judicial Center Court of Common Pleas. Caleb has held a variety of employment positions, beginning at age 14, providing him a unique perspective of the struggles of working-class citizens.

2024 Coleman Award



(Dr. James Denova)



(BJ Leber)

The Coleman Award for Excellence in Community Service recognizes individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving the Southwestern Pennsylvania region and exhibited the qualities for which the Institute's founding director, Moe Coleman, was known, particularly the ability to build bridges and make connections across disparate groups or communities. The 2024 award was presented to Dr. James Denova and BJ Leber at an awards ceremony on Thursday, October 17, 2024 following the Regional Progress Forum. Nominations for the 2025 Coleman Award are now being accepted. Deadline is July 31, 2025.

Tackling Regional, State, and National Policy Challenges
Presenting Thought-Provoking Programs on Key Issues of the Day
&
Advancing Student Civic Engagement Opportunities

The Institute of Politics is comprised of three major programming components: our regional policy work, student civic engagement programming through the Elsie Hillman Civic Forum, and community education on key issues of the day through our Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy. Leveraged together, IOP programs work to address the following five goals:

1. Promote Regional Economic Vitality and Opportunity
2. Support Healthy and Resilient Communities
3. Foster Responsive and Effective Government
4. Preserve and Strengthen Our Democracy
5. Build the Next Generation of Civic Leaders

Promote Regional Economic Vitality and Opportunity

Community and Economic Development Committee



(Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director of Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and Former Allegheny County Executive recaps a regional visioning discussion in an exercise facilitated by IOP Director Samantha Balbier)

The Community and Economic Development Committee, co-chaired by Venango County Commissioner Chip Abramovic and ImbuTec CEO Richard Taylor, kicked off its first meeting of 2025 in Washington County on April 24. Representing the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Kotula (President) and Will Thomeier (Director of Economic & Tourism Development) warmly welcomed IOP guests to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, and opened the meeting by providing an economic development update for their county. The committee conducted a scan of challenges facing Western Pennsylvania, such as industry and population growth as well as community capacity building. In a lively group exercise facilitated by IOP Director Samantha Balbier, the committee identified opportunities to strengthen career pathways between industry and education to retain and grow the region's future workforce, and examined opportunities for economic growth through increasing small business investment.

Dual Enrollment

The Institute of Politics continues its Dual Enrollment Promising Practices Pilot Project with Northgate High School and Charleroi High School, together with researchers Dr. Jen Iriti and Dr. Danielle Lowry of Pitt's Learning Research & Development Center. A final report will provide guidance for state policymakers and school districts looking to expand access to dual enrollment programming and necessary systems changes to support this expanding educational model. Stay tuned for the report publication and details on an upcoming community and policy convening in late summer 2025.

2024 Regional Progress Forum



(Westmoreland County Commissioner Doug Chew, Allegheny County Economic Development Director Lauren Connelly, and Washington County Chamber of Commerce President Jeff Kotula take audience questions during a panel about regional industry clusters.)

Smart Investments in People and Places: Creating a vibrant and future-ready region

The Institute of Politics held its annual Regional Progress Forum on October 17, 2024. The event convened elected officials and other community stakeholders for an impactful discussion on creating a vibrant and future-ready region. Speakers included Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato; Don Smith, President of Regional Industrial Development Corporation; and Joseph Parilla, Senior Fellow and Director of Applied Research at the Brookings Institution. Special thanks to all of our local panelists who each offered thoughtful ideas to move our region forward.

Support Healthy and Resilient Communities

The IOP Health & Human Services Policy Committee: Family Caregiving



(Halen Sav, Policy Analyst, presented the IOP's policy recommendations to support greater access for family caregivers at the Building Bridges: Connecting Caregiving Research, Policy, and Practice conference in September 2024. Special thanks to IOP Health & Human Services Policy Committee chairs, PA Representative Dan Frankel, and Butler County Commissioner Leslie Osche for their leadership.)

Following the committee's February 2024 convening where members narrowed the committee's focus to the topic of respite care, IOP staff continued their research into the issue of family caregiving and conducted a series of key stakeholder interviews to better understand the current respite care environment in Pennsylvania. Those conversations with academic researchers, respite service providers, public sector administrators, and residents with lived experience were then presented to the committee in November 2024.

The discussion from the November 2024 committee meeting, combined with significant policy changes at the federal level, have led members and IOP staff to target informal respite care networks as the policy option that has the greatest potential to positively impact family caregivers and their loved ones in the immediate future. Armed with further research and takeaways from stakeholder interviews, IOP policy staff are in the final stages of drafting a policy report, complete with recommendations for policymakers at all levels, to be presented to the committee and members of the public in May 2025.

Foster Responsive and Effective Government

Criminal Justice Reform

The Heinz Endowments awarded a $250,000 grant to the Institute of Politics to continue the IOP's long-standing commitment to creating a safe region by supporting the development of community partnerships to support public safety, cost efficiency, and a fairer system. The IOP recently completed a comprehensive summary of best practices for Criminal Justice Advisory Boards utilizing the Minimum Operating Standards of the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections best practices. In partnership with the office of the Allegheny County Department of Justice Collaboratives, the IOP will be launching its next phase of work promoting system stakeholder and community partnerships to address policy and practice recommendations of the IOP's 2023 report.

Preserve and Strengthen Our Democracy

Governance Programming. Reshaping Government: Possibilities and Perils

Lavish Gifts, Judicial Ethics, and the U.S. Supreme Court



(Brett Murphy, Katelyn Polantz, and Mark Nordenberg)

On September 12, 2024, Brett Murphy, Pro-Publica National Desk Reporter and Pulitzer Prize winner, joined Katelyn Polantz, Senior Crime and Justice Reporter at CNN and Emmy Award winner, and Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg for a discussion on the changing Supreme Court. The 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service Reporting, considered the highest honor in journalism, was awarded to ProPublica for groundbreaking and ambitious reporting that pierced the thick wall of secrecy surrounding the Supreme Court to reveal how a small group of politically influential billionaires wooed justices with lavish gifts and travel, pushing the Court to adopt its first code of conduct.

NATO at 75 and the Importance of Alliances in U.S. Foreign Policy: A Lawyer's View



(Jeffrey Kovar and Ronald Brand)

On October 8, 2024, Jeffrey Kovar, Assistant Legal Adviser for Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, whose office advises on matters involving international humanitarian law, the use of force, counterterrorism, cyber operations, and arms export controls, shared insights on NATO and its impact in a discussion moderated by Ronald Brand, Founding Director of the Center for International Legal Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Mr. Kovar specializes in a variety of other private and public international law areas, including human rights and refugees, environmental protection, outer space, Antarctica, investment claims and disputes, judicial cooperation, family law, and commercial law.

Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg provided opening and closing remarks.

The Department of Justice & Federal Law Enforcement



(Chuck Rosenberg answers a question posed by David Hickton)

On January 23, 2025, Chuck Rosenberg, Former U.S. Attorney, Senior FBI official and DEA Chief joined David Hickton, Founding Director, Pitt Cyber, and Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg in a timely discussion on "The Department of Justice & Federal Law Enforcement." Building on his extraordinary career in federal law enforcement, Rosenberg, a widely respected legal analyst, shared his perspectives on these important issues.

The Future of Federal Law Enforcement and Agency Oversight

On March 10, 2025, Harry Litman, lawyer, law professor, and legal commentator joined Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg and Pitt Law Dean Jerry Dickinson for a conversation on "The Future of Federal Law Enforcement and Agency Oversight." A former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, and Assistant U.S. Attorney in various offices, Litman is the creator, host, and executive producer of the Talking Feds franchise, which includes a roundtable podcast, weekly one-on-one discussions, Talking Books conversations with authors, Talking San Diego discussions with national figures, Talking Feds Substack, and Talking Feds daily youtubes. A Senior Fellow at the Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy at the University of Southern California, Litman also is the senior legal columnist for the New Republic and a frequent commentator for MSNBC, CNN and CBS News.



(from left - front: Ginny Thornburgh, Harry Litman, Samantha Balbier, Second Row: Mark Nordenberg, Law School Dean Jerry Dickinson)

Re-Imagining the Architecture of Democracy



(Ambassador David Carden (Ret.))

On March 18, 2025, Ambassador David Carden (Ret.) participated in a discussion with Chuck T. Kotuby, Jr. (Professor of Practice, Executive Director, Center for International Legal Education) on "Re-Imagining the Architecture of Democracy." Ambassador Carden is a lawyer, diplomat, mediator, and author who served as the first resident U.S. Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. In that position he was responsible for establishing the Mission and working with the President and officials from the White House, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and other agencies, to execute the Obama Administration's 2011 "pivot" to Asia. He is the author of Mapping ASEAN: Achieving Peace, Prosperity and Sustainability in Southeast Asia and a frequent contributor to publications, including The Guardian, Foreign Policy, Politico, and The Strategic Review.

Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg and Pitt Law Dean Jerry Dickinson provided welcoming remarks.

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Salk Polio Vaccine and Considering the Future of Vaccine Policies



(From left – Dr. Peter Salk, Dr. Donald Burke, Dr. Iulia Vann, Dr. Paul Offit, County Councilman Bob Macey, Dr. Terence Dermody, Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg)

On April 11, 2025, Dr. Peter Salk, President of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation, Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, and son of the late Dr. Jonas Salk addressed a packed house in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine. Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor Emeritus and Chair of the Institute of Politics set the stage, followed by Allegheny County Councilman Bob Macey, who read a proclamation to declare the April 12, 2025 as "Dr. Jonas E. Salk Day" in Allegheny County in recognition of the pioneering achievement of Dr. Salk and his research team. Dr. Paul Offit, Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Director of the Vaccine Education Center, Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Founding Advisory Board Member, Autism Science Foundation and Foundation for Vaccine Research, delivered keynote remarks on "The Often Unappreciated Miracle of Vaccines." Following the keynote, Dr. Offit and Dr. Salk were joined Dr. Terence Dermody, Vira Heinz Distinguished Professor and Chair of Pediatrics, Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Physician-in-Chief and Scientific Director at UPMC, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and by Dr. Iulia Vann, Director of the Allegheny County Department of Health, former Public Health Director, Guilford County, NC, and former President, North Caroline Public Health Association for a panel discussion. The panel was moderated by Dr. Donald Burke, Dean Emeritus and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, Inaugural Jonas Salk Chair in Global Health, and former Director of the Center for Vaccine Research and Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Health.

The Thornburgh Family Lecture Series on Disability Law & Policy

Building an Inclusive and Engaged Workforce



(Joyce Bender)

On February 26, 2025, Joyce Bender, Founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., and the Bender Leadership Academy and guest participant Karen Hanlon, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Highmark Health joined us to share insights on "Building an Inclusive and Engaged Workforce: The Bender DisabilitySmart Engine (TM)." Bender's organizations both focus on employment for people with disabilities. As a woman living with epilepsy and hard of hearing, Bender dedicated her life to a crusade for youth and adults to gain the dream of competitive employment. She works tirelessly to break down the barriers and stigma that exist for people with disabilities.

Developing the Next Generation of Civic Leaders

Legislator for a Day



(Representative Aerion Abney, Governor Josh Shapiro, and Pitt Senior Shambhavi Punjala)



(House Speaker Joanna McClinton with IOP students, Akaia Oatis, and Tasha Peacock)

On March 24, 2025, IOP staff and 12 exemplary University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students departed Pitt's campus and traveled to Harrisburg for an overnight stay in preparation for an early morning arrival at the Capitol. Throughout the day on March 25, each student shadowed a legislator in various meetings and hearings. House Speaker Joanna McClinton recognized the IOP and student attendees on the House floor. Pitt Senior Shambhavi Punjala shadowed Representative Aerion Abney, who earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees at Pitt, and was present when Governor Shapiro signed the representative's bill (Act 118 of 2024), which expands income eligibility for the PACE and PACENET prescription assistance programs that offer low-cost prescription medication to Pennsylvanians age 65 and older. This marked Representative Abney's first piece of legislation to be passed and signed into law. Senior Rachel Pronesti, who attended Legislator for a Day, provided this testimonial: "This was the best experience I have had while attending Pitt. I wish I would have done it earlier and not had so much hesitation in participating." The event fostered a deeper connection between elected officials and the next generation of civic leaders. Thank you to all the PA legislators who worked with our Pitt students!

If you are a state legislator and would like to participate next March, please contact Tasha Peacock at 412-624-1838.

Learn More

Elsie Hillman Ambassadors for Civic Engagement (ACE) Fellowship



(Sasha Henderson and Mariam Moaz)

The Ambassadors for Civic Engagement (ACE) Fellowship offers graduate students the chance to apply their education and skills to enhance the quality of life for people in the Pittsburgh region. This year's ACE fellows were Sasha Henderson from the School of Public Health, and Mariam Moaz, from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The fellows were placed with The Hear Foundation, a nonprofit that convenes, funds, and implements initiatives that build police relationships and strengthens Pittsburgh's neighborhoods. Throughout the year, fellows engaged in research and authentic community engagement to create awareness of Pittsburgh's district magistrates and their work, as well as outreach to disseminate resources to surviving family members of gun violence victims.

Marc Cherna Fellowship

The Cherna Fellowship program is tailored to provide highly motivated students with an opportunity to address critical societal issues. Miguel Salvador was the 2024-25 Marc Cherna Fellow and was placed at Area Agency on Aging through DHS for the academic year. His research focused on substance use disorders and overdose deaths among older adults.



(Miguel Salvador)

Elsie Honors Scholars



(2024-25 Elsie Hillman Honors Scholars with IOP Director Samantha Balbier)

The Elsie Hillman Honors Scholars Program facilitates connections between students and regional community partners. Through this program, students can either join an existing project or develop one led by both students and the agency. These projects are designed to address issues that are significant to the organization and align with the social commitment embodied by Elsie Hillman. This year scholars worked with several community partners including: 412 Food Rescue, Action Housing, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Community Human Services, CONNECT, Hearing and Deaf Services, Inc., Hello Neighbor, Pitt's Homewood Community Engagement Center, and UPMC Adolescent Medicine.

Never a Spectator



(Elsie Hillman Civic Forum Board Member Doris Carson Williams speaks with a Never a Spectator attendee during the mentor networking session)

The Elsie Hillman Civic Forum's annual Never a Spectator event took place on October 1, 2024. The event centered on SMART Advocacy, a strategic approach aimed at empowering students to drive meaningful and effective change. Over 20 mentors from various community organizations shared their experiences advocating for the people they serve. Sloane Davidson, Founder and CEO of Hello Neighbor, a nonprofit focused on matching refugee and immigrant families with neighbors, served as keynote speaker. A panel of advocates followed, and included: Dr. Josie Badger DHCE, CRC – President of J. Badger Consulting, Sydney Etheredge – President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania, and Harry Hou – Senior at Swarthmore College and Co-Founder of Students for Ballot PA. Students connected with mentors working in the government, foundation, nonprofit, and business sectors.



(Josie Badger presents on Never A Spectator panel)



(Never a Spectator attendee asks a question during the opening program)

All Angles

ALL angles
A speaker and discussion series for students



(Dr. Ilana Redstone)

YEAR OF DISCOURSE AND DIALOGUE

Watch the Recording

Overcoming Polarization – Beginning with How We Think

On October 10, 2024, in partnership with the Year of Discourse and Dialogue and the Center for Governance and Markets, All Angles presented Overcoming Polarization – Beginning with How We Think. Guest Speaker Dr. Ilana Redstone shared her thoughts on polarization and its causes and how the country can move forward. The event began with a student-only session with Redstone. At this session, the first 100 students received a copy of Redstone's latest book, The Certainty Trap: Why We Need to Question Ourselves More and How We Can Judge Others Less. Following this session, the public was invited to learn more about her book.

Rethinking World Order: Risk, Opportunity, Transformation?



(From Left - Dr. Daniel Bessner, Dr. Nadia Schadlow, and Michael Goodhart)



(An All Angles attendee poses a question to panelists during the student Q&A)

On April 10, 2025, All Angles presented Rethinking World Order: Risk, Opportunity, Transformation?" Speakers included Daniel Bessner, Anne H.H. and Kenneth B. Pyle Associate Professor in American Foreign Policy at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, and Nadia Schadlow, senior fellow at Hudson Institute, co-chair of the Hamilton Commission on Securing America's National Security Innovation Base, and a former U.S. deputy national security advisor for strategy in the first Trump administration. Dr. Michael Goodhart, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, moderated a robust discussion about the state of geopolitics and the current restructuring of the liberal democratic world order that emerged after World War II. Following the conversation, students had the opportunity to ask questions directly of the panelists, inquiring about the future of American diplomacy with China, the impact of tariffs on international relationships, and more.

IOP in the News

- Community celebrates polio vaccine anniversary, discusses vaccine skepticism
- McClinton, Ward, and Todd all recognized by Pitt for public service careers in state government
- Three Pennsylvania women honored with Elsie Hillman awards in Pitt ceremony
- Practicing the habit of democracy: Honoring the legacy and civic virtues of the late Jim Roddey

Learn More

Institute of Politics

Elsie Hillman Civic Forum

The Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy

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