The Rooney Center

The mission of the Francis and Kathleen Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy is to examine politics and policy-making in the United States—leaving Notre Dame’s distinctive imprint on the study of American democracy. With a grounding in Notre Dame’s Catholic mission, the Center facilitates research on the critical issues facing America’s democratic system, and encourages Notre Dame’s students to be engaged in both civic and political life.
In addition to weekly research workshops, we hosted many excellent visiting speakers, despite losing some to to the South Bend winter!

Friday, September 27
Josh Mandel (Treasurer, State of Ohio)

Friday, October 11
Rogers Smith (Pennsylvania)

Friday, January 31
Alexander Theodoridis (UC Merced)

Friday, February 21
Richard E. Matland (Visiting Fellow, Kellogg Institute)

Friday, February 28
Joseph Ura (Texas A&M)

Friday, March 28
Roundtable for Graduate Students on Finding an Academic Job, featuring:
Kevin Corder (Western Michigan)
Elizabeth Bennion (IU South Bend)
Joel Ostrow (Benedictine)

Friday, April 25
Brian Calfano (Missouri State)

Graduate students from Notre Dame and the University of Illinois participated in a research exchange. Four students from the University of Illinois visited Notre Dame to present their research; a few weeks later, four Notre Dame students traveled to Champaign-Urbana to do the same. The event was an opportunity for these graduate students to gain experience presenting their research, receive feedback on their work, and network with fellow students and faculty. The University of Illinois group was accompanied by Professor Jeffrey Mondak, who is the co-editor of the journal Political Behavior. Professor Mondak offered advice to our students on the publication process.
American Politics
in the 21st Century:
The Latino Vote and the 2014 Elections
Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Panelists at the event in McKenna Hall included: Michael Jones-Correa of Cornell (not pictured), Ricardo Ramirez of Notre Dame (middle), and Sophia Wallace of Rutgers (right). Christina Wolbrecht of Notre Dame (left) mediated.

The Rooney Center joined with both Multicultural Student Programs and Services and the Institute for Latino Studies in sponsoring two events on the role of Latinos in American public life.

First was a panel discussion on the Latino Vote, featuring scholars from Notre Dame, Cornell, and Rutgers. Second was a conversation with Julian Castro, who at the time was mayor of San Antonio and has now been nominated as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Latino Civic Engagement
Monday, April 7, 2014

Former San Antonio, Texas Mayor Julian Castro (left) speaks before a full audience in DeBartolo Hall with his former mentor, Luis Fraga (right).
On December 5 and 6, 2013, Notre Dame hosted a historic conference on “Catholics and Mormons: A New Dialogue.” Co-sponsored by the Rooney Center, Religious Education at Brigham Young University, and the Wheatley Institution, the conference brought together leading scholars of both faith traditions. The conference highlighted the key issues that unite Catholics and Mormons, as well as explored some of the challenging issues that have divided Catholics and Mormons during the past two centuries.

Participants:
Scott Appleby (Notre Dame)
Philip Barlow (Utah State)
Matt Bowman (Hampden-Sydney College)
Richard Bushman (Columbia)
**David Campbell** (Notre Dame)
Kathleen Cummings (Notre Dame)
Kathleen Flake (Virginia)
Terryl Givens (U. of Richmond)
Brad Gregory (Notre Dame)
Peter Huff (Centenary College of Louisiana)
Jeremiah John (Southern Virginia)
MaryEllen Konieczny (Notre Dame)
Patrick Mason (Claremont Graduate University)
Timothy Matovina (Notre Dame)
Mark Noll (Notre Dame)
Taylor Petrey (Kalamazoo College)
Mauro Properzi (Brigham Young)
Thomas Wayment (Brigham Young)
Stephen Webb (Emeritus, Wabash College)
Matthew Wilson (Southern Methodist)
Welcome Faculty and Students

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members and three new graduate students to the American Democracy field.

**Luis Ricardo Fraga**

Luis Fraga returns to Notre Dame from the University of Washington, where he was Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement.

**Gary E. Hollibaugh, Jr.**

Gary Hollibaugh comes to us from the University of Georgia, where he was Visiting Assistant Professor for the Department of Public Administration and Policy.

**New Graduate Students**

**Mark Brockway** (University of Oklahoma)
Mark is interested in studying religion and politics in the U.S. and around the globe, immigration politics and policy, and religion and international politics.

**Carmen Burlingame** (Central Michigan University)
Carmen will focus on American political behavior and participation, specifically women and politics, the cultivation of civic identity in young people, and the mobilization of these groups into politics.

**Maryann Kwakwa** (Oberlin College, Ralph Bunche Scholar)
Maryann plans to work on social networks, political psychology, ideological polarization, and American political behavior.

**Job Placements**

Michael Hartney, Lake Forest College
Patrick Schoettmer, Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Gregory Shufeldt, University of Arkansas-Little Rock
Congratulations to Tom Mcguire, winner of the 2014 John Roos prize for the best senior thesis in American Politics. His thesis is titled, “Trade Policy’s Salience and the RTAA.” Professor Alexandra Guisinger was his advisor.

**Recent Publications by Rooney Center Faculty**

**Mobilizing Opportunities: State Contexts, Mobilization and the Evolving Latino Electorate**
By: Ricardo Ramirez
University of Virginia Press

**Seeking the Promised Land: Mormons and American Politics**
By: David E. Campbell, John C. Green, and J. Quin Monson
Cambridge University Press

**Leo Strauss and the Problem of Political Philosophy**
By: Michael P. Zuckert and Catherine H. Zuckert
University of Chicago Press

**Senior Thesis Prize**

Congratulations to Tom Mcguire, winner of the 2014 John Roos prize for the best senior thesis in American Politics. His thesis is titled, “Trade Policy’s Salience and the RTAA.” Professor Alexandra Guisinger was his advisor.