Kerry and Rice in Conversation

Former Secretaries of State John Kerry and Condoleezza Rice addressed an enthusiastic, sold-out crowd at Notre Dame’s Leighton Concert Hall, identifying areas where they agreed or disagreed on topics including foreign policy, cybersecurity, and climate change.

“It's really important to work to mitigate some of the polarization we’re seeing currently in the political climate. To see two people from different political parties actually agreeing on a lot of issues was eye-opening.”

— Notre Dame student Juliana Ison

Workshops and Speakers

The Rooney Center is a central venue for understanding American democracy on campus, hosting speakers from universities across the country, as well as discussion of ongoing research by our own faculty and graduate students at regular Friday workshops.

Banner Year for NDVotes

Using the TurboVote app, NDVotes registered voters or requested absentee ballots for students at Welcome Weekend and on National Voter Registration Day, as well as an extremely successful dorm competition.

- 933 students newly registered to vote
- 1,384 absentee ballots requested on behalf of students
- 6 dorms registered or requested ballots for 20%+ of residents
- 80 stamps and envelopes distributed for students to mail absentee ballots
- 50 students attended midterm election results watch party

Partners: Notre Dame International Security Center, student-led BridgeND nonprofit, Common Ground Committee

Partners: Center for Social Concerns, Constitutional Studies Program
Faculty Highlights

Dianne Pinderhughes Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Notre Dame political scientist Dianne Pinderhughes, a Rooney Center faculty member, has been elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Founded by John Adams, John Hancock, and others, it has boasted members such as Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Albert Einstein.

Pinderhughes is a nationally-recognized expert on race, gender, and American politics and an important contributor to the Rooney Center’s thematic emphasis on the politics of democratic inclusion.

In the Media
Rooney Center faculty demonstrated their expertise by being quoted or published in several major news outlets, including:

- The New York Times
- AP
- The Atlantic
- HUFFPOST
- The Washington Post
- The Salt Lake Tribune
- Deseret News
- abc nightline
- LAW360
- USA TODAY

New Books

What Justices Want: Goals and Personality on the U.S. Supreme Court
Matthew E.K. Hall

Breaks new ground in the study of the U.S. Supreme Court, exploring ways in which personality traits shape the priorities and behavior of judges.

Indecision in American Legislatures
Jeffrey J. Harden (and Justin H. Kirkland)

Innovative study identifies incentives that lead state legislators to change their votes over time, providing insight into the ways in which constituency, interests, and strategic maneuvering shape policy outcomes.

Student Opportunities

Former Senator Teaches Class
Notre Dame alumnus Joe Donnelly ’77 ’81 offered a one-credit undergraduate course, Facing America’s Challenges, with a rotating group of political science faculty this spring.

John Roos Senior Thesis Prize
The Rooney Center-funded award went to Zoe Walker for her senior thesis, “Tuned-In and Turned Off: How Media Modulates Group Consciousness,” advised by Dianne Pinderhughes. Walker will now pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, one of the most prestigious graduate programs in political science.

31 Students Enjoy ‘Monumental Semester’
Through the Notre Dame Washington Program, students interacted with international NGOs, advocacy organizations, think tanks, and high-ranking government officials.

Highlights included:
- A talk with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor
- A simulation at the Korean Economic Institute
- A coffee chat with Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun

Washington Program faculty member Carlos Lozada ’93, an associate editor and nonfiction book critic at The Washington Post, won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism.