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Director’s Message

Having 20/20 vision means your eyesight is sharp and you can see at a distance clearly. The academic year started with great anticipation as the Hinckley Institute of Politics was starting to see the results of our vision for 2020. A record number of students engaged in our classes, forums, and internship programs. Our team successfully hosted the 31st Huntsman Seminar in Constitutional Government for Teachers, engaged with hundreds of youth in the Define Your Path program to encourage civic participation, and empowered women to run for office through the Real Women Run initiative. We produced 35 weekly episodes of The Hinckley Report and began preparing campus to host the nation’s only vice-presidential debate.

As we entered 2020 and commemorated the 55th anniversary of Hinckley Institute of Politics, our resiliency as an institution and as individuals faced its most challenging test in recent memory and we had to sharpen our focus and make adjustments.

“No matter where one stands on the political spectrum, our world continues to need good solutions, sound policy, and talented individuals to take up the cause.”

I was with our legislative interns on Capitol Hill as we learned about the measures the state would be taking to stem the spread of coronavirus. The typical exciting conclusion of the 45-day legislative session in March was instead met with uncertainty and anxiety.

As COVID-19 rapidly spread around the world, our Hinckley students and programs adjusted. Our students felt disheartened when they had to return home from once-in-a-lifetime internships, but they swiftly adapted, switching to remote work and online learning. They met these rapid changes and unforeseen challenges with determination and professionalism. As our students adapted, we did too, making the Hinckley and its programs more accessible than ever before.

I am particularly proud of the rapid overhaul our staff did to host the 6th annual HIPtalks competition, a 2-minute speech contest which awards $10,000 in scholarships. Weeks before the competition was scheduled to occur, we transitioned to holding the event entirely online. In the face of all the uncertainty in the world, it was inspiring to hear the passionate voices of the students on our campus. Our students are resilient and strong.

We take seriously Robert H. Hinckley’s goal to “teach students respect for practical politics and the principle of citizen involvement in government.” Though it has been 55 years since its inception, the original mission and values of the Hinckley Institute remain just as relevant. No matter where one stands on the political spectrum, our world continues to need good solutions, sound policy, and talented individuals to take up the cause. The education our students receive at the Hinckley gives them the tools they need to be engaged citizens.

I can think of no better way to honor the Hinckley Institute’s 55th anniversary than to recognize the vision of the incredible students, alumni, and team that have helped create the Institute and those who strive to ensure its future success.

Jason P. Perry
Hinckley Institute Director
LOCAL MANAGING DIRECTOR MORGAN LYON COTTI, PHD:

“The local internship program continues to expand and provide students with professional experiences in a range of government offices, nonprofits, and businesses across the Wasatch Front. As this program has grown, so has its alumni base. One of the most gratifying things that happens at the Hinckley Institute is when former interns contact us because they need to hire an intern and the Hinckley Institute was the first place they called. Hinckley alumni serve as wonderful mentors for our students because they know how transformative a substantive internship can be. Moving forward, we are excited to continue to expand our host offices and internship offerings so that anyone from an incoming freshman to an experienced graduate student can find an internship that will set them on the path to a successful career.”
Learn More: Hinckley.utah.edu/local

LEGISLATIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR MORGAN LYON COTTI, PHD:

“For more than 50 years, the Hinckley Institute has sent some of the brightest students to work as full-time, paid interns for members of the Utah State Legislature. In 2020, the Hinckley Institute placed 29 students with legislators, lobbyists, advocacy groups, and other elected officials. These students saw firsthand how elected officials and policy makers had to make quick and decisive action as the public health and economic crises caused by the Coronavirus pandemic developed during the legislative session. Legislative interns from all universities and colleges were prepared to assist their legislators through this historic session because they were trained together in a consortium course that is co-led by the Hinckley Institute.”
Learn More: Hinckley.utah.edu/legislative

NATIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR GINA SHIPLEY, MPA:

“The Hinckley Institute has one of the nation’s longest standing, Washington, DC internship programs – dating back to 1965. Each semester the Hinckley Institute provides 30 students of all majors internships in a variety of government institutions, public advocacy groups, and media and consulting firms. This flagship program provides students internship scholarships to cover expenses and subsidized housing in central Washington, DC apartments. The success of this program is made evident by the growing number of Hinckley alumni living and working in the DC area. More often than not, these alumni have accepted job opportunities that were a direct result of their Hinckley internships. The annual DC alumni event is a highlight, as we reconnect with past interns. We see the impact their internships had on their lives and hear about recent accomplishments. In the future, we anticipate the national internship program growing to the capacity to house and provide substantive full-time internships to 40 students per semester.”
Learn More: Hinckley.utah.edu/national

GLOBAL MANAGING DIRECTOR JEAN OH, M.ED.:

“Flexibility is an essential quality in a global intern navigating professional expectations in a foreign context. This past year, and particularly this spring, tested the flexibility of our global interns as well as their host offices, as they worked through the challenges of COVID-19 that hit the world early in 2020. Unsurprisingly, yet nevertheless remarkably, global interns and their host offices rose to meet the challenges with flexibility, a calm demeanor and a consistently helpful attitude to make things as easy as possible for others. The Hinckley Institute’s 55 year history of promoting experiential learning through deeply engaged civic service in communities both near and far has cultivated an ethos of more than ‘rolling with the punches.’ It’s an overall mentality and commitment to find creative ways to serve, even, or especially, in the face of a global pandemic. To that end, global interns are finding ways to remain globally active, remotely and safely until global travel is once again welcome across all borders.”
Learn More: Hinckley.utah.edu/global
This Year's Forums

Hinckley forums seek to expose the university community to important ideas and perspectives from academics, policy makers, diplomats, politicians, public servants, writers, and observers on local, national, and international affairs. Despite COVID-19 cutting our forum series short, the Hinckley Institute produced 58 forums focusing on topics from environmental activism and media literacy totranquil politics and the ethics of gene editing. Our dedication to producing politically, socially, and economically informed forums fosters critical public discourse and civil debate on the most current and pressing issues of our time.
Some of the great minds that visited the Hinckley Institute throughout the past year.
As Hinckley forums continue to engage the broader university community, much of our programming’s success relies upon meaningful partnerships. This year, we collaborated on forums with a broad array of campus entities and community organizations to expand the scope and depth of our forums. We are immensely grateful to our partners and look forward to creating more compelling forums in the future.

In 2019-2020, KCPW Producer and Host Anthony Scoma ensured our forums were broadcasted, filmed, and made available as podcasts.

Listen on the radio:
KCPW 88.3 FM Wed 10AM & Sat 9AM

Download the podcast:
Hinckley Institute Radio Hour - KCPW

Watch archives online at:
Hinckley.utah.edu/forums
In partnership with the Office of Engagement and the Office of Continuing Education and Community Engagement, the Hinckley Institute is dedicated to teaching youth about the importance of civic engagement as part of the Define Your Path program and the PATHS program, respectively. These initiatives bring students from schools around the Salt Lake Valley for university programming on campus to get a glimpse of what college is like. Outreach Coordinator Miranda Best, creates these presentations and trains the Hinckley Student Ambassadors to facilitate discussions. These presentations empower young students to become knowledgeable about current issues and civically engaged.

The program aspires to teach them that no matter their age, economic background, or documentation status, they can create change in their communities. Despite the 2019-2020 academic year being cut short, we were still able to work with over 120 young students.

**Huntsman**

The Huntsman Seminar in Constitutional Government for Teachers is sponsored by the Jon and Karen Huntsman Foundation and aims to improve the quality of civic education in Utah schools and empower educators to engage in the political process. The seminar is facilitated by Director Jason Perry and Associate Director Morgan Lyon Cotti and produced by Managing Director of Community Outreach Molly Wheeler. Together, they provide participants with a unique opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of political issues while earning graduate credit. In 2019, 31 teachers from every corner of Utah attended the seminar which focused on topics including the impacts of Utah’s changing demography, innovations in the Utah court system, and how to enable their students to participate in the political process.

**PATHS**

The Andrew Goodman Foundation is committed to establishing a legacy of courageous civic action to grow new leaders of change and to build a culture of democratic participation. At the University of Utah, student ambassadors for AGF work with Administrative Program Coordinator Kyle Tucker and Hinckley Institute staff to promote voting and civic engagement all across campus. Through participation in the Vote Everywhere program of AGF, the University of Utah has established its commitment to being a state and national leader in elevating the voices of young people and educating a new generation of civically-minded individuals.
The Hinckley Institute is committed to increasing student’s voter registration and participation. Working with the Andrew Goodman Foundation’s (AGF) student ambassadors and the Associated Students of the University of Utah’s (ASUU) Government Relations Board, the Hinckley Institute has helped thousands of students register to vote and gain easy access to the ballot box with an on-campus polling location at the Marriott Library.

One of the year’s biggest events took place on National Voter Registration Day (September 22nd). AGF and ASUU conducted voter registration drives in the Marriott Library plaza to help students register to vote in time for the 2019 municipal elections. In addition to in-person voter registration, AGF worked with the Office of the Registrar to make online voter registration widely available for University of Utah students. These efforts led to more than 450 students registering to vote.

In the past, the Hinckley Institute, AGF, and ASUU have worked closely with the Salt Lake County Clerk to provide a vote center at the Marriott Library during federal election years. This year, we expanded that partnership to include the first campus vote center for municipal elections and for the Super Tuesday presidential primary. Students turned out by the hundreds to cast their ballots on campus.

On October 7, 2020, the eyes of the country will be fixed on the University of Utah campus as we host the nation’s only vice presidential debate for the 2020 election cycle. Led by the University and the Utah Debate Commission, the massive undertaking will transform campus in the fall of 2020, providing students with a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in the national political scene as it unfolds on Presidents Circle.

In partnership with the Academic Affairs Office, the Hinckley Institute is designing the campus-wide experience by coordinating student internship and volunteer opportunities, developing course curriculum, and organizing watch parties.

The effort to host this high-profile event was years in the making. The University of Utah was one of four sites selected by the Commission on Presidential Debates through a highly competitive bidding process. The Commission is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and has sponsored all general election presidential and vice presidential debates since 1988. This is the first national debate to be hosted in the state and the Hinckley is excited to help ensure it is a success.

To celebrate the Democratic presidential primary on Super Tuesday, the Hinckley Institute, Andrew Goodman Foundation, Political Science Department, and College of Social and Behavioral Science co-hosted an election night watch party. Students, faculty, and community members filled the Hinckley Caucus Room to hear election analysis from an expert panel consisting of Political Science Associate Professor Jim Curry, The Salt Lake Tribune Columnist Robert Gherke, Hinckley Institute Associate Director Morgan Lyon Cotti, and Utah Democratic Party Executive Director Matthew Patterson. After the panel, guests enjoyed food, and election-related games as they watched the live results roll-in.

As a part of the University of Utah’s annual Pride Week, the Hinckley Institute partnered with the LGBT Resource Center and several other campus partners to host a Mayoral Candidate Town Hall. State Senator Luz Escamilla and then-Councilwoman Erin Mendenhall discussed policy issues as they relate to the LGBTQ+ communities and answered audience questions.

The Hinckley Institute hosted some big names in politics as candidates visited campus to connect with students. Presidential Candidate and Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard discussed her vision for America. Gubernatorial Candidates Spencer Cox and Jon Huntsman shared their experiences in elected office and explored Utah’s potential in the years ahead.

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PARTICIPATION & RECOGNITION

HARVARD NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE
Each year, the Harvard Institute of Politics welcomes students from more than 35 colleges and universities across the country to the National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement. This year, University of Utah students Sheely Edwards and Sierra McNeil were honored to attend. Over the course of the weekend, participants meet young leaders, and discuss pertinent political issues. The goal is to motivate students to increase civic engagement on their own campuses and communities. This year’s conference focused on breaking down barriers to democracy. The event culminated with a trip to New Hampshire where the students saw firsthand how primary campaigns operate and were given the chance to canvass for a campaign.

“The Harvard National Campaign Conference was one of the most inspiring and insightful opportunities I’ve had during my college education. I had such a fantastic time meeting engaged students from around the country and learning from their unique perspectives on civic participation.”

- Sheely Edwards

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM
This year, University of Utah student Caitlin Silianoff was one of the competitive students chosen to receive a program grant. Caitlin has participated in two local Hinckley internships. As a Fulbright scholar, she will serve as an English teaching assistant in Taiwan. She will receive a B.A. in English and International Studies and a B.S. in Political Science with a minor in Chinese from the University of Utah.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is an international educational exchange program designed to build relationships between people in the U.S. and in other countries with the aim of solving global challenges. It is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Grant recipients are selected based on academic and professional achievement as well as a record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields.

OXFORD CONSORTIUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
The Oxford Consortium gives students who are passionate about human rights an opportunity to engage with fellow peers, colleagues, scholars, and professionals to learn and envision ways that they might contribute to the global task of combating human rights violations. 2019’s summer consortium focused on global ethics, using the concept as a framework for discussion of humanitarian action, conflict, human rights law, and peacemaking. The Hinckley Institute sponsored Claire Kirkland’s attendance. Kirkland has participated in a local, Washington, DC, and global internship.

“The Oxford Consortium gave me a new perspective on not just refugee and immigration issues, but other fascinating areas like European politics and environmental policy. Attending the Consortium motivated me to become an advocate for refugees and work to support them. I recently accepted a position with the International Rescue Committee of Utah, and I am certain that everything I learned at the Consortium will inform and inspire the work I do in this role.”

- Claire Kirkland

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP
University of Utah student and Hinckley Institute intern, Elise Scott was awarded the 2020 Harry S. Truman Scholarship for the state of Utah. A political science and communication double major, one of the highlights of Elise’s undergraduate education has been participating in a Hinckley internship with Utah’s Legislature. She is also the opinion editor at the University of Utah’s paper, The Daily Utah Chronicle, where her writing has won multiple awards. She is also a volunteer with UServeUtah, Salt Lake Peer Court, and local political campaigns. Scott plans to use her scholarship money to attend law school. She is passionate about the defense of civil rights and the mitigation of hate-based violence.

The Truman Scholarship was created as a living memorial to President Truman and seeks to motivate bright, outstanding students who are pursuing a life of public service with up to $30,000 for graduate study. Past winners include supreme court justices, U.S. senators and congressmen, governors, ambassadors, and other elected officials and community leaders. Truman Scholars lead at all levels of government and throughout the nonprofit sector, from local to global. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding leadership potential and communication skills, demonstrate academic excellence, and be committed to careers in public service. Scholars also receive priority admission and supplemental financial aid at some premier graduate institutions, leadership training, career and graduate school counseling, and special internship opportunities within the federal government.
Interns, Interns, Interns!

Over the last decade, the Hinckley Institute connected over 3,000 interns with transformative, resume-building experiences. In ten years, we have almost doubled our number of interns, with over 8,000 total. We also worked hard to grow host-office partnerships to ensure that students from all major programs can find an internship that furthers their goals. Last summer was our largest group of local interns, with over 100 placements. The global intern program continues to grow with new opportunities in Australia and East Asia. Our DC and legislative programs continue to live up to their exceptional reputations.

Engaging Assembly

From their origin as “Coffee and Politics” and “Books and Banter,” to today’s “Pizza and Politics,” the Hinckley Institute prioritizes bringing political thought and informed perspectives to the university campus. Approximately 80 forums are held throughout the fall and spring semesters featuring local, national, and global activists, academics, lawmakers, journalists, and political leaders. Over this past decade, forum guests have included Dolores Huerta, Karl Rove, Susi Snyder, Jon Huntsman Jr., Mitt Romney, and Bassem Youssef.

A Building for the Future

After 60-plus years as the main classroom building on campus, Orson Spencer Hall was replaced by the Carolyn and Kem Gardner Commons which officially opened in 2018. It is home to the College of Social and Behavioral Science, the School for Cultural and Social Transformation, the Office for Global Engagement, the Welcome and Student Success Centers, and the Hinckley Institute. Our new offices provide beautiful conference and study spaces as well as a caucus room, which lets us host events and bring in notable speakers.

New Director Carries Institute’s Vision Forward

The Hinckley Institute was excited to welcome Jason P. Perry as our director in 2015. Jason also serves as the vice president for government relations at the University of Utah. Prior to his tenure at the U, he served as chief of staff to Governor Gary R. Herbert as well as the executive director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development under Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. As director, Jason is wholly dedicated to serving the student population at the University of Utah and ensuring that each intern has a transformative experience.

Access for All Students

One of the Hinckley Institute’s goals is to ensure that students have access to internships regardless of economic advantages. We are proud to offer scholarship assistance to all of our internship programs as well as academic scholarships. Over the last 10 years, we have provided over $2.3 million in scholarships, enabling students to participate in everything from traveling abroad for global internships to offsetting housing costs in DC. We are so grateful to the generous donors who make this funding possible.

Looking at Local Politics

Another exciting development over the last decade is the addition of our Emmy nominated PBS television show, The Hinckley Report. With Jason Perry as the host, the show provides insight and analysis into Utah politics with journalists, lawmakers, and policy experts. The show just completed its fourth season and was able to nimbly transition to video conferencing in lieu of the usual studio set in response to COVID-19 concerns. The show is produced by Morgan Lyon Cotti and Natalie Tippets, with art direction by Brooke Doner, and in partnership with PBS Utah.

A Lecture Series Rich in Intellect

The Sam Rich Lecture Series highlights exceptional, thought-provoking individuals with the mission to engage and inspire students. In 2013, the inaugural guest was celebrated author and journalist Malcolm Gladwell. His books include Outliers and Blink. 2015 welcomed Michael Lewis, financial journalist and bestselling non-fiction author of titles including The Big Short and Moneyball. Most recently, 2017’s lecture guest was Bob Woodward the investigative journalist and author of Fear and All the President’s Men.
INTERNS ADAPT

Spring semester 2020 brought unique challenges to our interns as they navigated COVID-19 concerns. For many, this meant their internships ended early and they returned home. However, an impressive number of host offices and interns figured out ways to adapt the interns’ roles — allowing the interns to contribute remotely. Even students who were supposed to be on global internships working for companies thousands of miles away found ways to stay connected and maintain meaningful roles with their host offices. The Hinckley team was impressed by our interns’ nimble evolution.

NICOLE GEHRING, NATIONAL INTERN
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, WASHINGTON, DC

“Working remotely was not something I am accustomed to or expected from my time in Washington, DC. This experience taught me many things about my own work ethic and ability to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. The first few days flew by, but as days turned into weeks I found myself relying on my team and the communication that we all had established so early on to create the driving force in the goals I had set for myself since the very beginning. This experience has and will forever change the way I see what the working world has to offer and the complex challenges people face in times of adversity. Each day presents its own unique challenges with many unknowns, but I am incredibly grateful to Hinckley and HHS for instilling in their interns the courage to believe in themselves no matter what life brings.”

AUSTIN DECKARD, GLOBAL INTERN
STARTUPBOOTCAMP, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

“My experience as an intern at Startupbootcamp was nothing short of incredible. I had the opportunity to work alongside brilliant people from around the world who are using renewable energy to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges. When I returned to the states and began working remotely, although there is an 18 hour time difference between Salt Lake and Melbourne, it wasn’t difficult to keep in touch with my team and remain productive from home.”

JACK JOWERS, LOCAL INTERN
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

“Working from home definitely shortened my commute to work as I converted my bedroom dresser into a makeshift desk. Working with The Salt Lake Tribune’s business innovation team, I helped organize a strategic plan and create a dashboard to track key performance indicators for the newly transitioned nonprofit news organization. I’ve also assisted in researching and writing applications for various grants. The COVID-19 outbreak was a busy time for the newsroom, and I was able to prepare messages emphasizing the importance of strong local journalism during times of crisis to share with potential donors and the public.”

MADISON BARKER, GLOBAL INTERN
ONE YOUNG WORLD, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

“Almost half of my internship was conducted working at home instead of in London. My manager and team were incredibly helpful and made the transition relatively easy. I would video call with the whole team every day at 10:00 AM (2:00 pm London time) to discuss daily progress and update them on my ongoing project. My primary focus for my time working remotely was to create content for the website, which included articles about how the One Young World Community is responding to the coronavirus.”

PAIGE REMINGTON, NATIONAL INTERN
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, WASHINGTON, DC

“After interning with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for two months, we, as interns, were notified that we would be working from home for the foreseeable future and most likely wouldn’t be returning to the office before heading back to Utah. Transitioning from working full-time in the middle of Washington, DC to my apartment was a definite adjustment, but one that came with plenty of learning opportunities: I was able to strengthen my time and change management skills. Although this was not how I saw my last semester at the University of Utah playing out, I am very grateful I was able to live in the nation’s capital and then also to continue interning for HHS while adapting to a dynamic environment.”

ABIGAIL BARNEY, GLOBAL INTERN
AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

“We paused on all the projects we were working on (i.e., drug reform and elective surgery waitlist reform) and shifted to monitoring the government’s response to the virus. In the weeks before I left, I tracked the growing number of reported cases and kept an updated timeline of significant government responses and public comments.”

NICOLE GEHRING, NATIONAL INTERN
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, WASHINGTON, DC

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

JUSTICE PAIGE PETERSEN

Over the last 25 years, Justice Paige Petersen’s career accomplishments have created a formidable and impressive resumé. She has pursued her judicial career down a variety of compelling avenues and international locations. While her trajectory has taken her around the world, the Hinckley Institute was her launchpad into public service.

After completing her associate’s degree at the College of Eastern Utah, Petersen enrolled at the University of Utah and quickly took advantage of the opportunities offered by the Hinckley Institute. Petersen completed her first internship during the 1992 General Legislative Session where she worked with Senator Scott Howell. Looking back at her experience Petersen said, “I loved the energy of the last night of the legislative session,” when the 45 days culminated in one final rush to pass legislation.

Senator Howell would later recall, “It didn’t take me long to realize that Paige was the brightest, the most dynamic, and dedicated intern that I had ever had the privilege of working with. I knew that with her skills and abilities that Paige was going to achieve much in her future career. It has been a pleasure to watch Paige over the years to see the amazing accomplishments that she has achieved.”

Petersen served a second internship, this time working in the White House. Petersen remembers, “It was almost surreal to walk through the West Wing of the White House. My office was in the Old Executive Office Building (which I loved), but I had access to the West Wing as well. It was very meaningful to be there, and realize it’s not just a place on TV or in the movies, but a real place. And I was there.” Beyond her work, she said “I made wonderful friends from my intern class and we traveled a lot!” Together, they took advantage of Washington, DC’s central location and traveled as much as possible — from Virginia to Pennsylvania to New York.

During her junior year, Petersen won the prestigious Scott M. Matheson Leadership Award. Professor Mark Matheson helps administer this scholarship and remembers the day Petersen was selected, “I had a conversation with Mayor Ted Wilson, who was then the director of the Hinckley, in which we struggled to find words to do justice to Paige’s abilities. This didn’t happen often to Ted and me!” Professor Matheson also taught Petersen and said, “Paige enriched the educational experience of all of us who were lucky enough to know her. Through her wonderful intelligence and remarkable poise, she brought a genuine vitality to the culture of learning on this campus. In those years Paige was already manifesting her deep gifts for creating justice and coherence in the human community.”

When asked how the Hinckley Institute has impacted her life, Justice Petersen answered, “I loved every day of both of my internships. And on campus, the Hinckley Institute was my home base. I appreciated the speakers, the resources and support, and the camaraderie with other students. My engagement with the Hinckley Institute deepened my desire to have a career in public service. And that desire has stuck with me. After a couple of years working at a private law firm, I’ve spent my career as a federal prosecutor, a war crimes prosecutor, and now in the Utah State judiciary.”

Leadership Forum Scholarship Awarded

Petersen has also been chairperson for the Hinckley Institute’s Bicentennial Leadership Forum, which celebrates the bicentennial of the University of Utah. Catherine Petersen, a junior at the University of Utah, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Utah in 1995, double majoring in political science and English. She would go on to receive her Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School.

Petersen graduated cum laude from the University of Utah in 1995, double majoring in political science and English. She would go on to receive her Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School. After graduation, Petersen served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Organized Crime Section, Narcotics Section and General Crimes Section for the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Utah from 2003 to 2008. She also served as a legal officer in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at the Hague in the Netherlands from 2009 to 2011.

From 2012 to 2015, Petersen was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Violent Crimes Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Utah. She then served as a judge of the Utah Third Judicial District Court from 2015 until she was appointed to serve as a justice on the Utah Supreme Court in 2017.

Now, Justice Petersen gives back to the Hinckley Institute, contributing to our forums by sitting on panels, providing her expert advice, and inspiring the next generation of public servants. Years after her internships, she reflects, “The Hinckley Institute helped me discover the right path for me.”
Issues like education, clean air, things some might think of as more traditionally Democratic are getting a lot of discussion on the Republican side too. These are issues that we are all concerned about.

LINDSAY WHITEDURST 01.03.2020

There is a grace and a dignity missing from our political process today.

DOUG WRIGHT 02.04.2020

When it comes to voting, the job of election officials isn’t to make it easy for themselves, it’s to make it easy for the voter.

MAX ROTH 03.04.2020

People are way more aware now of the decisions government makes that affect their livelihood. They are more aware of how systems work together, and ultimately of who pays for it, which is of course the taxpayer.

BEN WINSLOW 04.24.2020

In policy, you try to help your citizenry as much as possible. But it’s also incumbent upon us as citizens to do what we can to monitor ourselves, the health of those around us, and do our best to prevent the spread of sickness.

JASEN LEE 03.04.2020

This is a laboratory of democracy, Utah is not just a crossroads to the west anymore, it’s a crossroads to the world.

BOYD MATHESON 11.04.2019

The reasons you can impeach are treason, bribery, high crimes and misdemeanors. What are high crimes and misdemeanors? Whatever Congress says they are.

MATT CANHAM 09.27.2019

The air we breathe not only impacts our individual health, but our economic health as well. Companies are concerned with that as they look at Utah as a potential place to do business. So that’s why we’re seeing this bipartisan support over air quality.


Most of the issues that Utah voters care most deeply about are in the middle. The extremes on either side of the political aisle are a frustration to many. They want solutions and practical progress on addressing these issues like air quality and affordable healthcare.


At a 5,000 foot level, I think that the role of mayor is really about convening, amplifying, and getting something better than we would have if we hadn’t set the table for a good conversation.

ERIN MENDENHALL 10.14.2019

The impeachment will be an asterisk in history by the end of this year, everyone will have forgotten about it. I don’t see a downside for Mitt Romney or Donald Trump. The country is moving on.

FRANK PIGNANELLI 01.14.2020

There are folks who feel like [the Utah government] swung the pendulum too far and too fast in shutting down the economy, and others who think that it’s the only thing keeping our [coronavirus] numbers so remarkably low.

KATE BRADSHAW 04.17.2020

The poll shows that the majority of independent voters do not want impeachment. And it’s the independents who decide who the president is, not the hardcore Democrats or Republicans.

SEN. TODD WEILER 02.27.2019

Local news has always had a social responsibility, a mission to play a vital role in our society. That becomes heightened when we have an emergency.

JENNIFER NAPIER-PEARCE 05.08.2020

The cool part about the mayoral race is... either way you go, these women love Salt Lake City, they love the great state of Utah and their goal is going to be to take care of the capital city.

EMILY CLARK 10.24.2019

SEASON FOUR

That’s a wrap! In May 2020, The Hinckley Report concluded its fourth season on PBS Utah with 135 episodes aired to date. During its final weeks of the season, the show pivoted from filming in studio to an online format, as Utahns observed Governor Gary R. Herbert’s stay at home order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Adapting to this challenge was an exciting opportunity. Viewers were accustomed to welcoming us into their homes and in this rare instance, Utah’s top journalists, local experts, and political leaders, had to learn to reciprocate – a courtesy rarely offered in television!

Our political insiders joined host Jason Perry for thoughtful weekly discussions on critical issues and topics including municipal elections, the business of the state legislature, several special legislative sessions, impeachment proceedings, and the evolving impacts of the deadly coronavirus.

The Hinckley Institute is grateful for the partnership and support we receive from PBS Utah to produce The Hinckley Report. We take our responsibility to host a civil dialogue on politics seriously, and appreciate viewers for allowing us into their homes. While the show will be on hiatus until the fall, you can subscribe to The Hinckley Report podcast and catch up on developments you may have missed over the past year.

Learn more at PBSUtah.org/HinckleyReport
HIP TALKS

2 MINUTES TO WIN IT

SPEECH CONTEST

$5,000 WINNING PRIZE
$1,000 EACH RUNNER-UP

HIP Talks (Hinckley Institute of Politics Talks) is a university-wide speech contest held in honor of former Utah Congressman Wayne Owens. The contest, co-hosted by ASUU and supported by the Wayne Owens Fund, is meant to foster the public speaking skills of University students. The winner of the contest is awarded a $5,000 scholarship, with five $1,000 scholarships for the runners-up.

The sixth annual edition of HIP Talks took on a new format in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Administrative Program Coordinator Kyle Tucker ensured that the contest would still be held. Instead of the traditional live presentation format, students were asked to submit prerecorded videos of their two-minute speeches. In total, 83 brave and articulate students entered their compelling, thought-provoking speeches. A panel of judges consisting of former winners, contest partners, and Hinckley Institute staff reviewed the submissions to select the winners.

After narrowing down the original pool to a group of 30 finalists, the judges made their decision. Noah Hughes won this year’s grand prize for his incredibly powerful speech “Like Father, Like…” His video, along with the runners-up can be viewed at hinckley.utah.edu/hip-talks

GRAND PRIZE:
Noah Hughes “Like Father, Like…”

AUDIENCE FAVORITE:
Benjamin Merzouk “Reviving EMS”

RUNNERS-UP:
Aly Hill “The Truth Is”
Wendy Joseph “The Real Virus”
Madelaine Lamah “More Than Their Words”
Stephanie Morgan “The Secret Liberal Agenda in Schools”

JUDGES:
Jason Perry, Director, Hinckley Institute
Wayne Owens, Owens family representative
Derek Kitchen, Utah State Senator
Gabe Martinez, ASUU VP of Student Relations
Latifa Yaqoobi, ASUU VP of University Relations
Sierra McNeil, ASUU Director of Government Relations Board
Rachel Carlson, 2019 HIP Talks Grand Prize Winner
Isha Shadale, 2019 HIP Talks Audience Favorite Winner
INTERN PHOTOS

Benjamin Benally, April Bernabe, Nicholas Cockrell, Grace Cole, Byron Day, Hampton Delker, Brenda Doris, Kevin Edminster, William Finlay, Andrew Harker, Thea Holcomb, Marta Hubbard, Kyra Hudson, Trevor Jensen, Andrea Jimenez, Lori Kremer, Veronica Lukasinski, Connor Mayer, Mikenzie Orozco, Barbara Pace, Jordan Passsey, Benjamin Robbins, Jeffrey Roberts, Melinda Robinson, Justin Rose, Gavin Sar, Dylan Stoddard, Elizabeth Ward, Jonas Warner

Lauren Thompson, Michelle Vazquez

SPRING 2020
NATIONAL

SPRING 2020
LEGISLATIVE

ANDREW GOODMAN FOUNDATION AMBASSADORS
AGF student ambassadors work to promote voter participation and civic engagement on campus.

Jacqueline Mumford, Jonas Warner, Michaela Lemen, Sierra Marty

Lauren Bray, Peyton Williams, Sarah Hong, Kaleb Rasmussen, Annie Kaufman, Parker Lester

Ryan Rhineer
Fall

Jacqueline Mumford & Miranda Jones

HINCKLEY JOURNAL OF POLITICS EDITORS
Editors oversee one of the few undergraduate-run journals of politics in the U.S. and strive to publish scholarly papers of exceptional caliber.

2019-2020:
Jacqueline Mumford & Miranda Jones

STUDENT FORUM HOSTS
Hosts serve as the face of the Hinckley Institute and introduce forum guests as well as assist with event production.

HINCKLEY JOURNAL OF POLITICS
2019-2020:

Jacqueline Mumford & Miranda Jones

STUDENT AMBASSADORS
Student ambassadors play a key role in outreach to students and the campus community. They attend networking meetings with campus, community, and political leaders to develop skills like public speaking and intercultural awareness. These skills help them to relate to students and promote the Hinckley Institute more effectively. Ambassadors also help with Hinckley Institute events and assist in the office.

2019-2020:
Vibha Bajji, Peyton Williams, Sarah Hong, Kaleb Rasmussen, Annie Kaufman, and Parker Lester

Ryan Rhineer
Fall

Sarah Meredith
Fall

Vibha Bajji
Spring

Maisy Hayes
Spring

Lauren Harvey
Spring

Melissa Relagado
Spring

Vibha Bajji, Peyton Williams, Sarah Hong, Kaleb Rasmussen, Annie Kaufman, and Parker Lester

Ryan Rhineer
Fall

Sarah Meredith
Fall

Vibha Bajji
Spring

Maisy Hayes
Spring

Lauren Harvey
Spring

Melissa Relagado
Spring

April Bernabe, Nicholas Cockrell, Grace Cole, Byron Day, Hampton Delker, Brenda Doris, Kevin Edminster, William Finlay, Andrew Harker, Thea Holcomb, Marta Hubbard, Kyra Hudson, Trevor Jensen, Andrea Jimenez, Lori Kremer, Veronica Lukasinski, Connor Mayer, Mikenzie Orozco, Barbara Pace, Jordan Passsey, Benjamin Robbins, Jeffrey Roberts, Melinda Robinson, Justin Rose, Gavin Sar, Dylan Stoddard, Elizabeth Ward, Jonas Warner

Lauren Thompson, Michelle Vazquez

38

39
This year, 315 Hinckley interns graduated with a bachelor’s or master’s degree! Collectively, they completed 410 internships: 215 local internships, 85 national internships, 42 legislative internships, and 67 global internships. The interns graduating represent 11 different colleges and 56 majors. We are so proud of all the hard work they put in as students and grateful that they chose to expand their education with the real-world experience of an internship. As they set off into exciting futures, we hope they remember that membership in the Hinckley Institute family never expires! Best of luck graduates!
The Hinckley Institute of Politics is proud to offer a remarkable number of funding and financial support opportunities to our student interns. The generosity of our past and present donors allow for more than $200,000 in support each year for intern scholarships which enable students to participate in transformative and life-changing experiences. If you would like to help give more students these opportunities, please visit Hinckley.utah.edu/Donate
ROBERT H. HINCKLEY INSTITUTE OF POLITICS ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED)

The Hinckley Institute's founder was a man whose accomplishments were as diverse as they were numerous. In addition to his impact in the air-travel, automobile, and broadcast news industries, he served in both the Roosevelt and Truman administrations. A hard working leader, he was a strong believer that young people should be encouraged to value civic engagement and that the future leaders of tomorrow should have a strong devotion to civic duty. This fund was created to help realize this mission and provide diligent students with the opportunity to gain real-world experiences.

HORIUCHI'S SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Horiuchi's spirit of service and community engagement are furthered as he enables standout interns to follow in his footsteps. His family's namesake institute. He viewed the work he did through the Hinckley Institute as a labor of love. After the passing of his father, Robert Henry Hinckley Jr. who was a passionate promoter of political and civic involvement through the Hinckley Institute of Politics, their sharing of love, family, and his father's dream to extend opportunities to all students, regardless of their financial means, lives on.

FRANK E. MOSS PUBLIC POLICY SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created by Kem C. Gardner in honor of former Senator Frank E. Moss who is known for his distinguished public service career as well as his sense of caring, concern for the environment, passion for public health, and work for minorities, underprivileged groups, and the elderly. The purpose of the scholarship is to steer remarkable student interns towards experiences and work with social institutions that promote caring and compassion.

MARGARET RAMPTON MUNK PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of former Utah Governor Calvin L. Rampton’s daughter Margaret “Meg” this fund provides scholarships for interns serving at the executive branch of Utah's government. While a political science student at the University of Utah, Meg was editor of the campus newspaper and the underclassman at commencement. She was a bright student and highly involved. The scholarship is awarded to standout students who embody her passion and engagement.

THE JAYNE NELSON SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in honor of Jayne Nelson, former associate director of the Hinckley Institute. During her time in this role, she was passionately devoted to providing students with transformative opportunities. Additionally, she produced educational forums for the enrichment of the campus and larger community. Her namesake scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate this same passion for engagement and enrichment.

THE WAYNE OWENS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created to honor the late Wayne Owens, a University of Utah alumnus, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and passionate advocate for peace. During his congressional career, he helped found the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation. The scholarship is awarded in his memory to extraordinary students who are participating in national internships or internships that serve the Middle East.

BILL RISHEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Bill Rishel Memorial Fund was created in his memory by his daughter, Virginia A. Rishel. An avid cyclist and transportation enthusiast, Bill Rishel was a pioneer in the development of the highway system in the Western United States and was instrumental in helping to make Salt Lake City its hub. The goal of the Bill Rishel Scholarship is to encourage and foster greater interest and participation in the area of politics and public service. This scholarship is awarded to standout interns who demonstrate academic excellence and show a motivated interest in political participation and service.

"My Global Hinckley Internship helped me step out of my comfort zone and allowed me to explore the work culture of a new place. I felt feeling more prepared for my future career and with skills in the professional field that will help separate me from others. This experience isn’t something you can get from sitting in a classroom and has given me the confidence to enter the working world.”

Gillian St John
Intern Scholarship Recipients Continued

BILL BISHEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND (CONTINUED)

The Bill Bishel Memorial Scholarship Fund was created in his memory by his daughter, Virginia A. Bishel. An avid cyclist and transportation enthusiast, Bill Bishel was a pioneer in the development of the highway system in the Western United States and was instrumental in helping to make Salt Lake City its hub. The goal of the Bill Bishel Scholarship Fund is to encourage and foster greater interest and participation in the area of politics and public service. This scholarship is awarded to standout interns who demonstrate academic excellence and show a motivated interest in political participation and service.

BARTBARA ROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP

Barbara Roberts is a friend to the University of Utah and champion of education and learning opportunities. Her generosity creates internship experiences for distinguished female students who demonstrate a commitment to public service. A global traveler and lifelong learner, Roberts hopes to give more young people the opportunity to broaden their horizons and engage with their communities.

MAIA SOUTHWICK National Internship US Department of Health and Human Services

SYDNEE KAY National Internship Representation Ben McAdams

TAYA WALLACE National Internship Public Records Administrator

ROCCO SICILIANO SCHOLARSHIP

Rocco C. Siciliano is nationally recognized for his lifetime of dedicated public service, as a decorated soldier in Italy, and for his leadership in the corporate world. His public service career includes a stint as President Eisenhower’s special assistant for personnel management and as under secretary for commerce and assistant of secretary of labor. In 2001, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the University of Utah and was also selected as the Chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission in Washington, DC. The fund in his name enables distinguished students the opportunity to intern in executive or congressional offices.

JONATHAN CARUSILE National Internship Eisenhower Memorial Commission

JOSHUA SILER National Internship American College of National Security Leaders

JAMES MUIR-JONES National Internship American College of National Security Leaders

DANIEL SMITH National Internship National District Attorney Association

PETE SUAZO LOCAL INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The Senator Pete Suazo Leadership Foundation was founded in November 2001 shortly after the tragic death of the late Senator Suazo. The foundation was established to honor the legacy and commitment of the senator, who is remembered as a heroic role model with a strong social conscience. The scholarship seeks to fund the internships of ethnic minority students enrolled at the University of Utah who demonstrate a passion for community service and exemplify his spirit of leadership.

SOPHIA AFONSO Local Internship Child Rescue Association of North America

ELIZABETH DAMUY Local Internship Global Health Initiative

PAOLA CERVANTES Local Internship University of Utah Dream Center

AVERY MALLETT Local Internship Mexican Consulate

JOSE CHACON Local Internship Alte di Mexico

CARLOS IXTA Local Internship Eagle Consulting

DIANA RODRIGUEZ National Internship Representative Ben McAdams

LESLE SOTOLO National Internship US Department of Health and Human Services

ISABELA LOPEZ National Internship US Department of Health and Human Services

CAMER ROBERTS National Internship Center for Children’s Law and Policy

THE ERIC WRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship is in memory of Eric Wright, whose legacy of participation and scholarship at the University of Utah, as well as his passion for public service and engaged citizenship make him an example for his generation. This fund was generously created by his family to give exemplary future students the opportunity to intern in Washington, DC.

REBECCA DAVIS Local Internship And Justice For All

FATIMA ROSOUL Local Internship International Rescue Committee

THEOD WILSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ted Wilson Scholarship was established in 2003 in honor of his retirement and years of service to the University of Utah and the larger community. After his third term as the 20th mayor of Salt Lake City, Wilson served as the director of the Hinckley Institute of Government from 1985 to 2003. Under his tenure, Wilson encouraged students to participate in local politics, but also to look for opportunities to serve their global community. He led 10 expeditions to India where students met with local leaders, organized in-service projects, and learned about India’s government and international politics. The Ted Wilson Scholarship funds motivated students to follow in his footsteps of civic engagement and community involvement.

JOSEPH HICKLEY A Friend of Robert H. Hickley since his days as members of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal administration, Dr. Wood was a pioneer in college education research. This scholarship was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Wood and is awarded to outstanding students serving public policy internships in the federal government.

JENNY WRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created by Utah businessman Jeffrey Wright a University of Utah Alum and venture investor with experience in a variety of industries. The scholarship is awarded to exemplary students in order to help overcome economic or demographic challenges.

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JEFFREY WRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created by Utah businessman Jeffrey Wright a University of Utah Alum and venture investor with experience in a variety of industries. The scholarship is awarded to exemplary students in order to help overcome economic or demographic challenges.

Continuing a Legacy

Robert H. Hickley founded the Hinckley Institute of Politics with the vision to “Teach students respect for practical politics and the principle of citizen involvement in government.” His legacy endures today through the third generation of Hinckleys. Jim and Lyn. Both proud U of U alumni, Jim and Lyn understand the important role the Hinckley Institute has played in the lives of generations of U students. They recognize that the students of today are the leaders of tomorrow and have laid the groundwork for Hinckley students to become engaged, enthusiastic, and educated leaders. Jim and Lyn maintain the central goal that every Hinckley program is focused on the students—always asking, “How will the students benefit?” Through their generous and thoughtful support, the Hinckley Institute has been able to provide transformative experiences for University of Utah students, and will be able to continue providing these experiences for many years to come.
Academic Scholarship Recipients

SUMMER 2019 - SPRING 2020

The Abelia C. Hinckley Graduate Scholarship was established to encourage students to follow her example of public service and political involvement. A remarkable woman, she combined devotion to her family with true patriotism and a commitment to politics and civic participation. As the wife of Robert H. Hinckley, she encouraged him to create the Hinckley Institute of Politics. This scholarship is awarded to exceptional women who emulate the values of Abelia C. Hinckley through their interests in political engagement and public service.

JOHN & ANNE HINCKLEY SCHOLARSHIP

John S. Hinckley was a proud member of the automobile industry who strongly believed in the improvement of community through active participation and was highly involved in local causes. He met Anne, a Virginia native, during his time in the U.S. Army while she was serving in the American Red Cross. The John & Anne Hinckley Scholarship Fund was thus created to award annual scholarships for outstanding students whose academic and community pursuits promote active citizenship and public service. The Hinckleys demonstrated great love for the Institute and wanted to ensure that talented students could contribute to the larger political community without financial hindrance.

PETE SUAZO COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Senator Pete Suaizo Leadership Foundation was founded in November 2001, shortly after the tragic death of the late Senator Suaizo, a beloved local figure and Utah’s first Hispanic State Senator. The Foundation was established to honor the legacy and commitment of the Senator, who is remembered as a heroic role model with a strong social conscience. This scholarship is awarded to reward the academic success of select standout University of Utah students who demonstrate a commitment to community service.

SCOTT M. MATHESON LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The Matheson Leadership Scholarship was established in honor of the late governor to offer scholarships that encourage distinguished students to pursue public service and extraordinary leadership in the tradition of Scott M. Matheson. A graduate of the University of Utah and Stanford Law School, Matheson’s impressive career included Deputy Salt Lake County Attorney, legal counsel to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and President of the Utah State Bar. He served as the Governor of Utah from 1977 to 1985. During his tenure as governor, Matheson supported public education and advocated for states’ rights.

TODD TAYLOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Todd Taylor Academic Scholarship was established at the University of Utah to reward successful students who embody Todd Taylor’s work ethic, dedication, and passion. Taylor passed away in 2012 while serving as the longest-tenured state political party executive director in the nation. He is remembered as “a true renaissance man” with a passion for national and local politics, a near photographic memory, encyclopedic knowledge of Utah politics, a sharp wit, and personal authenticity.

IVORY DIRECTOR’S PRIZE SCHOLARSHIP

The Director’s Prize awards highly accomplished students who have shown a commitment to public service. This scholarship is made possible through the generosity of the Clair and Christine Ivory Foundation. The Clair and Christine Ivory Foundation was created in 2004 by Clair Ivory, CEO of Ivory Homes, and his wife Christine. The foundation is committed to proactively searching for innovative ways to lift and empower the individual and to do its part to help communities where it can.

Patrice Arent is well known as a public servant who fights passionately for the issues she cares about. At the Hinckley Institute, she is not just one of our most accomplished alumni, but also one of our most sought-after internship host offices. From her first campaign internship in 1996 to her last legislative intern in 2020, Arent has provided once-in-a-lifetime educational and professional experiences to many Hinckley students. Her mentorship for these interns lasts long past their last day on the job, as she is happy to provide lifelong career advice and friendship.

Arent’s career in public service started at the Hinckley Institute. As an undergraduate majoring in communications, she made Hinckley her home on campus and engaged in multiple internships. Arent recalls, “During my internships, Governor Matheson and Senator Moss let me participate in some of their strategy meetings. This helped me better understand how to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.” These experiences gave her experience to start a career in public service, and also informed her views on the importance of internships. Arent later said, “It has always been important to me to make sure my interns have as many opportunities as possible. I want my legislative and campaign interns to understand the full breadth of the work of legislators and candidates. I have tried to include my interns in developing strategy, and in return, have received so much good advice from them.”

In 1978, Arent graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor’s degree in communications, and went on to secure a JD from Cornell University in 1981. She worked as a Division Chief in the Attorney General’s Office, and as Associate General Counsel to the legislature before deciding to run for state senate in 1996. Her first Hinckley intern was Jennifer Skougard Huntsman, who helped with her campaign. Arent reflects, “My campaign interns have helped make it possible for me to serve in public office. They have served as my campaign managers, deputy managers, and have worked in all aspects of my campaigns.”

Because Representative Arent puts so much responsibility and trust in her interns, they learn invaluable skills and often attest to how their experience was much more than a typical internship. Ashley Jolin, now a campaign consultant, interned on Arent’s 2010 and 2012 campaigns and said, “Rep. Arent’s ability to build teams, engage voters, and deliver landslide victories time and time again is legendary. To this day, my professional approach to campaign management is informed by this internship experience.”

At the Utah State Legislature, it is well known that Representative Arent’s current intern is one of the busiest people on the Hill. Her interns track legislation, engage with constituents, provide critical research on policy issues, and much more. Elise Scott was Arent’s last legislative intern in 2020 and said, “There is no better crash course in Utah politics than a legislative internship, and there is no better mentor than Representative Arent. She taught me the importance of doing everything with great care and passion.”

Beyond teaching the hard skills necessary to succeed as an intern, Arent provides incredible mentorship. Regarding his 2017 legislative internship, Christian Mower said, “I have never met someone as committed to mentorship as Representative Arent. I couldn’t have asked for better. Her vision extends far beyond the next few months or years. I am extremely grateful for the time she took to teach me pivotal lessons.”

Arent has noted that her interns are like her extended family. “Even after their internships are over, I try to stay in touch and help them with their future endeavors, such as finding jobs, applying for scholarships, getting into graduate school, and running for public office.”

Arent’s impact on the lives of her former interns is enduring. Among her intern alumni are many individuals who have also chosen careers in public service, including Truman scholars, elected officials, congressional candidates, attorneys, doctors, and policy makers. Looking back, Arent says “I have truly been lucky to have some of the very best legislative and campaign interns in the state. They have all taught me so much.”
JASON PERRY, JD
DIRECTOR
Jason Perry is the director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics. Before joining the University of Utah, Jason spent more than 30 years of experience working in the public sector where he has worked extensively in the policy-making at the local, state, and federal levels. Previously, Jason served as chief of staff to Governor Gary Herbert and was the executive director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development under Jon Huntsman where Jason was honored as CEO of the Year by Utah Business Magazine. Jason also worked in the Attorney General’s Office and was an intern and legal staff member to Governor Davis. Jason is a graduate of the S.J. Quinney College of Law where he now teaches the role of ethics and politics in creating legislation.

BROOKE DONER
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
Brooke joined the Hinckley Institute as director of marketing in 2019. A graduate of the University of Colorado, she previously worked as an art director in San Francisco’s and New Zealand’s advertising industries.

MIRANDA BEST
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
Miranda joined the Hinckley Institute team in 2017. She has degrees in International and Latin American Studies, and completed a Hinckley internship in Cuba. Miranda organizes outreach and information efforts on campus.

KYLE TUCKER
ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Kyle provides administrative support for the internship programs and other office functions. He oversees the Andrew Goodman Foundation ambassadors and HIP Talks. Kyle graduated in 2019 with a degree in political science.

THE Hinckley Institute TEAM

MORGAN LYON COTTI, PHD
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Morgan serves as associate director and manages the local and legislative programs. She coordinates the Hinckley Institute’s internship programs. A Hinckley intern, she holds a PhD in political science from George Washington University.

NATALIE TIPPETS, MS
SPOTLIGHT ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT
Natalie has been with the Hinckley Institute since 2015. In 2018, she served as intern coordinator for the vice president at both the Hinckley Institute and in the Government Relations Office at the University of Utah.

MOLLY WHEELER, MSC
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL INTERNSHIPS
Molly returned to the Hinckley Institute in 2015 as the managing director of the global internship program. She manages the Hinckley Forum Series, Huntsman Seminar, and the institute office and finances.

ABIGAIL BARNEY
STUDENT STAFF
Abigail is a senior studying political science and sociology. She has completed two local Hinckley internships, one national internship with the National District Attorney’s Association in Washington, DC, and one global internship with the Australian Parliament.

CHRISTA ISHIMWE
STUDENT STAFF
Christa is a junior studying health, society, and policy and environmental and sustainability studies. She has completed one global Hinckley internship with the Embry Riddle Foundation in Brazil.

NICK COCKRELL
STUDENT STAFF
Nick is a senior studying history and political science. He has completed two local Hinckley internships, one legislative internship, one national internship with the Campaign Legal Center in Washington, DC, and one global internship with the British Parliament.

GABRIELA VILLALOBOS
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Gabriela is a junior studying communications and political science. She has completed one global Hinckley internship with the Swiss Embassy Group in Washington, DC.

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Banter. Gardner was frequently referred to as the "nuts and bolts" of the Hinckley Institute.

The student internships were Gardner's greatest source of satisfaction. She reflected, "Some of my greatest pleasure has come when I have been able to place those students who maybe haven't had much recognition before and who have been afraid, they didn't have a chance…. When they are given opportunity, they shine."

Throughout her 22-year career at the Hinckley Institute, Gardner worked with more than 2,000 interns who were affectionately known as "Bae's Kids." They went on to build fulfilling careers, many of them in politics and key positions of influence.

"Bae Gardner was one of the most welcoming figures an 18-year-old freshman could ever hope to meet in their first days at the University. She made anyone interested in politics feel their home at the U was the Hinckley. She was warm, gracious, and indispensable. Looking back, it is hard to understand how one person could do so much, so pleasantly and seemingly so effortlessly, all while providing such effective adult leadership to so many…"

- Karl Rove, Chief Political Adviser to President George W. Bush

"During my college days, I found a home at the Hinckley Institute of Politics. This sense of belonging started with the smiles, encouragement, and support of Bae Gardner. She boosted my confidence, shared advice when I needed it, and inspired my professional development. Most of all, I could tell she believed in me— an incredible asset for a student anxious to grow and learn. She gave me the gift of self-assurance, and I will always be grateful for her care."

- Natalie Gochnour, Associate Dean, Eccles School of Business; Director, Gardner Policy Institute

Throughout her tenure, Bae Gardner laid the groundwork for the Hinckley Institute to become what it is today. While Gardner's "nuts and bolts" work was essential to maintain the success of the Hinckley Institute, her dedication to the students is her most enduring legacy.

We are grateful to Bae Gardner for her commitment to the Hinckley Institute and its students. 30 years after her retirement and 12 years after her passing, Bae Gardner's light continues to shine through the Hinckley Institute of Politics.

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