



Center for
**CONSTITUTIONAL
STUDIES**

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

CCS Information Packet



Center for Constitutional Studies Advisory Board Meeting Book

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Mission Statement

The Center is a nonpartisan academic institute that promotes the instruction, study, and research of constitutionalism. In particular, it examines important constitutional issues found at the intersections of political thought, public policy, religion, law, history, and economics. It employs a multidisciplinary approach to more effectively equip a new generation of citizens and leaders with a broad understanding of political thought and economic and political practices critical to the perpetuation of constitutional government, ordered liberty, and the rule of law.

Impact Statement

The Center allows UVU to be a leader in the fields of constitutional studies, political thought, economics, law, and civic leadership, and to provide educational, scholarly, and public outreach endeavors across the state, the region, the nation, and the globe.

Through its undergraduate mentoring opportunities, assistantships, and internships, students work with the Center's associated faculty and staff to better prepare themselves for graduate school, law school, and a variety of jobs in the public and private sectors. This includes careers in local, state, and federal government, law, business administration, public administration, secondary education, and academia.

The Center provides future and current private and public leaders with the essential understanding of political and economic thought necessary to secure the perpetuation of constitutional government, the rule of law, and the blessings of ordered liberty for generations to come.

History of the Center

Beginning

Recognizing a compelling need for increased constitutional literacy, President Matthew Holland conceived of the idea of starting a Center for Constitution Studies (Center) at Utah Valley University (University). He soon discovered that Dr. Rick Griffin, a distinguished constitutional scholar-teacher at Utah Valley University, shared similar notions. Understanding that such a Center should be funded privately, to remain nonpartisan, President Holland secured start-up funding for the Center from others who shared his vision (the Center remains at least 90% philanthropically funded to this day). With \$1,000,000 in gifts from generous donors and with the naming of Dr. Griffin as the Center's first Director, the Center was opened at a ribbon-cutting featuring David McCullough as the first of a continuing flow of respected speakers and scholars attracted to the University by the Center.

Dr. Griffin did a remarkable job of bringing excellent speakers to campus, developing two major annual conferences: one celebrating Constitution Week and another examining First Amendment issues. Dr. Griffin established and continues to coordinate a successful constitutional studies minor, for undergraduate students. The Center is now developing a plan for a graduate program in constitutional studies, designed to serve teachers and students interested in constitutional studies.

Expansion

In 2014, Director Griffin secured significant private funding to support the Eric Zachary Wood Student Research & Teaching Assistant program for a five-year period. The Wood Assistants serve in a variety of capacities and have been integral to the growth of the Center.

When Director Griffin took a sabbatical in 2015, Dr. Andrew Bibby, a political philosopher and a fine scholar-teacher at Utah Valley University, became interim director of the Center. The Center continued to host major conferences and speakers. With a grant from the Utah Commission on Federalism, Dr. Bibby brought leading federalism scholars to campus and videotaped their addresses, which were used in an online continuing legal education program serving, to date, over 1,000 individuals. Dr. Bibby continues to work in the federalism area, with additional grant funds supplied by the Utah Federalism Commission.

During a 2015 visit to Oxford University, President Holland met Dr. Nicholas Cole, the founder of The Quill Project. Together they realized that the Wood Assistants at the Center could do much to help with the Quill Project. Students began by working on the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and then the Utah Constitutional Convention. The students have also attended courses at Pembroke College (Oxford).

Dr. Rodney Smith left his position as a Distinguished Professor of Practice at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (Arizona State University) to become the Center's third director. Director Smith vigorously supported the programs established by President Holland and Directors Griffin and Bibby, endeavoring to put the Center on sound fiscal footing, and by raising new funds and building bridges to other nationally recognized organizations. Most notably, Director Smith was integral in securing a \$3,700,000 gift that established the David & Laurea Stirling Endowed Chair of Constitutional Studies in the Center and extended the UVU-Pembroke College Quill Project partnership until 2030.

Today

The Center entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Oxford in 2018, facilitating dramatic growth in the Quill Project. Additional funds have been raised to provide support for a threefold increase in the number of Wood Assistants. The Center is building strong collaborative relationships with Oxford and major national organizations to increase constitutional literacy in the K-12 space. In 2018, Scott Paul was hired as Executive Director of the Center. Scott works tirelessly in directing the operations of the Center. With funds from a generous gift, Dr. Griffin has returned to the Center as its first Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Studies. Jaimie Reimschuessel joined the Center in January 2020 as the Administrative Support III, and Kari Dennis assumed the newly created Events & Marketing Manager role in March of the same year. The Center team is fully invested in increasing constitutional literacy, through engagement with the community, schools, and scholars.

In June 2020, Director Smith was selected as the inaugural David & Laurea Endowed Chair of Constitutional Studies, a position he would hold concurrently with the directorship. Sadly, Director Smith passed away suddenly in July 2020. UVU Provost Dr. Wayne Vaught appointed Scott Paul to serve as Interim Director in August 2020. Interim Director Paul will serve in that position until the search for a new Director is complete, at which point he will resume his role as Executive Director.

UVU-Oxford/Quill Partnership

Background

Dr. Nicholas Cole, an American history professor by day at Oxford's Pembroke College and a computer scientist by night, was frustrated in his study of the US Constitution by the inaccessibility of the records of the 1787 Constitutional Convention. He imagined software that would bring all the convention records together in an interactive digital model. This idea took shape as the Quill Project, a groundbreaking platform that can be used to model constitutional conventions or any proceedings, debates, etc. that use parliamentary procedure to negotiate the language of a text.

In 2015, UVU President Matthew Holland met Dr. Cole, who had then written the Quill Project software and started work on creating a model of the 1787 Convention. President Holland volunteered the Center's Wood Student Research Assistants to help accelerate the modeling work. Then Interim CCS Director, Dr. Andrew Bibby organized the Wood Student Research Assistants and put them to work on the project. The students quickly proved so adept at the Quill modeling process that UVU and Oxford established a formal partnership to advance the Quill Project.

President Holland and UVU's Institutional Advancement team raised significant funds to support the Quill Project. A MOU was drafted to formalize the UVU-Oxford partnership and facilitate growth.

Soon after the drafting of the MOU and the completion of the 1787 Constitutional Convention model, UVU students began work on the 1895 Utah Constitutional Convention, the first state convention to be modeled using the Quill platform. The Wood Assistants quickly learned that while the US Constitutional Convention records had been scrutinized for years by many scholars, the Utah Convention records and records from other states had received no such attention. This led to an incredible engaged learning opportunity. The students spent 18 months pouring over the convention journal while also delving into the state archives and other resources to discover the source material needed to complete the model. As a result of their efforts, those students are among the leading experts on the Utah Constitutional Convention.

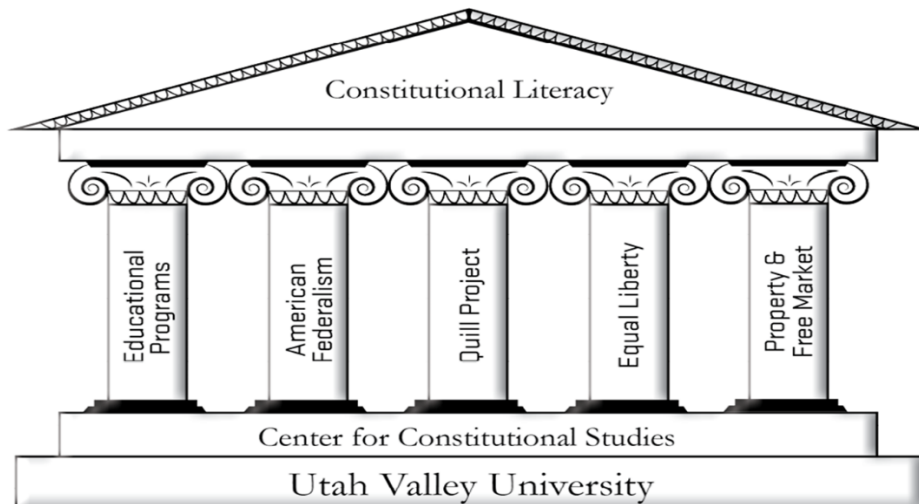
With the completion of the Utah Convention model, our students look to their next project. Thanks to a second generous gift, the Center can now fund two student teams to work on separate models simultaneously. One group is completing work on the Reconstruction Amendments. The other is modeling the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention.

Deeply impressed with CCS and its students, Dr. Cole worked with the Center to establish a summer study abroad program at Pembroke College, which he co-taught with Dr. Carl Scott, former Assistant Director at the Center. UVU students are privileged to study with Dr. Cole—most other Oxford summer programs are taught by faculty from the visiting institution.

The Pediment and Five Columns of the Center for Constitutional Studies

Overview

As an architectural matter, many of our most historic buildings, including the Supreme Court, follow the Greek tradition of columns, entablature and pediments. For graphic and substantive purposes, we became persuaded that the idea of a stately and historical building consisting of a pediment with five columns is attractive and captures a sense of the historical. The pediment represents our mission of increasing constitutional literacy. The five columns are: 1. Educational Programs: K-12, Bachelors and Master Levels; 2. Federalism: Structure and Powers (and Checks and Balances); 3. The Quill Project: CCS-Oxford Relationship; 4. Equal Liberty and the Constitutional Rule of Law: Interdependent Rights of Conscience (emphasizing our historical commitment to preserving religious liberty and the interwoven rights contained in the First Amendment); and 5. Property and Free Markets: Tying the Free Market to the Constitutional Protection of the Right of Property. Some of the columns intersect or over-lap, and the columns are roughhewn at present and need refinement. More information about the five columns is available at www.uvu.edu/ccs.



Center Staff

Scott Paul, Interim Director



Scott Paul has been involved with the Center since its inception. Before being named Executive Director of the Center, Scott directed operations and strategy for UVU's Division of Development and Alumni Relations. In that role, he worked with former UVU President Matthew Holland on national and international outreach for support of university priorities and initiatives such as the Center. Scott came to UVU from Brigham Young University where he studied law. His research centered on domestic and global religious liberty issues. He worked with Cole Durham and Brett Scharffs on *Law and Religion: National, International, and Comparative Perspectives* (Aspen/Wolters Kluwer, 2010). Scott also examined the relationship between famed jurist Sir Edward Coke and his one-time law clerk Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island and early advocate for the liberty of conscience.

Dr. Andrew Bibby, Associate Director



Andrew Bibby teaches introductory classes in Political Science, Political Theory, and American Heritage. He is the recipient of major research awards, including a SSHRC Masters scholarship and the Postdoctoral Fellowship in the James Madison Program for American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton. He is the author of *Montesquieu's Political Economy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). His writing on American Political Thought has appeared in various news and media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal. His next book, *Reading Montesquieu in America* explores Montesquieu's legacy and impact on the evolution of constitutional thought in the early American republic.

Jaimie Reimschuessel, Administrative Assistant



Jaimie Trottier Reimschuessel, a native of the Olympia, Washington area, graduated from Brigham Young University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in family studies. As an undergrad, she served as a Research Assistant at BYU and as an Adoption Respite Intern at the Family Support and Treatment Center in Orem, UT. Since graduation, she has worked as an administrative assistant at Leader of the Pack and Syndication Attorneys, PLLC. In January of 2020, she was hired into her current position as the Administrative Support III in the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University.

Kari Dennis, Events and Marketing Manager



Kari Dennis came to UVU as a Non-Traditional student in 2013 to study Criminal Justice. As a student, she served as the UVUSA Student Senator for the College of Health and Public Services for the duration of two years. Serving in this capacity, she was involved in the planning of events on the campus of all sizes. These events ranged from organizing the details of marketing to building schedules, and catering. Kari also sat on different committees, including EPAC and Advisement Leadership Council while attending UVU. While serving in these positions, Kari fell in love with UVU and campus life. These experiences impacted her so much she went on to gain employment in 2017 with the Career Development Center as the Events and Marketing Coordinator. In the past year, Kari and her team have organized over 260 events across campus for the Career Development Center. Kari currently works for the Center for Constitutional Studies and will be teaching Criminal Justice-Career Strategies and Law Society in the fall. She looks forward to getting continually involved on campus and being part of, and supporting, Wolverine pride!

Conferences & Events

Background

Conferences were the primary focus of the Center through its first five years. The Center's annual conference schedule comprised a spring religious freedom conference and a fall Constitution Week conference on various current constitutional topics. Most years also included one-off events such as a featuring a distinguished lecture, a special presentation, or a half-day symposium on a relevant topic.

Beginning with David McCullough, the Center's events have featured a who's who of historians, jurists, scholars, and public figures. A list of conference topics and notable visitors is included at the end of this section. In addition to prominent speakers, early Center conferences and events included fine dining and musical performance by harpists, string quartets, and even popular musician David Archuleta.

Past Conferences & Events

Constitution Week Conference

2011 – Constitutional Liberties in Times of Crisis

2012 – Democratic Springs and Constitutional Reform

2013 – Privacy

2014 – "You Can't Say That Anymore." Real and Perceived Limitations on Speech in 21st Century America

2015 – The Powers and Privileges of U.S. Presidents

2016 – Justice Scalia's Legacy and the Supreme Court

2017 – Free Markets and the Constitution

2018 – The Evolution of American Federalism

2019 – Constitution Week Conference: The Founders Divided

2020 – Mayflower 400th Anniversary: From Compact to Constitution

2020 – Constitutional Literacy Institute

2020 – Federalism on Trial: Lessons from COVID-19

Symposium on Religious Freedom / First Amendment Conference

2013 – Religious Liberty in an Age of Change

2014 – The Importance of Religious Freedom to America's Past, Present, and Future

2015 – Religion and the Presidency; Intrusions on Religious Freedom

2016 – The Mormon Question

2017 – Religion in the Public Square

2018 – The 25th Anniversary of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act

2019 – First Amendment Conference: Freedom of the Press in Tumultuous Times

One-Off Conferences and Events

- 2012 – Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
- 2012 – PBS First Freedom Film Premiere
- 2013 – State Senate Night
- 2013 – America's Renaissance Man: Benjamin Franklin
- 2013 – The Constitution of Kyrgyzstan and Its Impact in Central Asia
- 2013 – State Legislative Night: Speaker Rebecca Lockhart
- 2015 – Principles of Federalism
- 2015 – International Symposium on Magna Carta
- 2016 – The Article One Project
- 2016 – Turning Points in History Lecture Series
- 2016 – A Common Lawyer Looks at Supreme Court Constitutional Law
- 2017 – Fall Distinguished Lecture Series on Peace, Justice and the Constitutional Rule of Law
- 2018 – Being a Historian in the Information Age: Introducing the Quill Project
- 2019 – The Importance of State Constitutions and the Quill Project Launch
- 2019 – Senator Mike Lee Q&A Session on Federalism and Limited Government
- 2019 – Free Markets and the Constitution: Debating the Wealth Tax
- 2020 – 19th Amendment Conference

Past Speakers

Legal and Political Scholars

William B. Allen, Former Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Michigan State University Dean of James Madison College and Political Philosophy Professor of Emeritus

Akhil Reed Amar, Yale Constitutional Law Professor

Jack Balkin, Yale Constitutional Law Professor

Randy Barnett, Georgetown Constitutional Law Professor

J. Edwin Benton, Policy Analyst, Political Reform Program, New America

Julia Ernst, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Associate Professor, University of North Dakota School of Law

Joel Campbell, Brigham Young University School of Communications Journalism Professor

Alexandra G. Cockerham, Assistant Teaching Professor, Florida State University

John Dinan, Wake Forest University Politics and International Affairs Professor

Daniel Dreisbach, American University Religion and Politics Professor

Richard Epstein, Author, NYU Law Professor

Noah Feldman, Harvard Constitutional Law Professor

Stanley Fish, New York Times Columnist, Florida International Humanities and Law Professor

Louis Fisher, Constitution Project Scholar in Residence

Leslie Francis, University of Utah Law Professor

Matthew Franck, Princeton Witherspoon Institute Center on Religion and the Constitution Director

Frank Garmon, Christopher Newport University Center for American Studies Professor

Gary Gerstle, Paul Mellon Professor of American History, Cambridge University

Greg Goelzhauser, Associate Professor, Utah State University

Tracy Gordon, Urban Institute Tax Policy Center Senior Fellow

Alan Greenblatt, Senior Staff Writer, Governing

Michael Greve, George Mason University Law Professor

Ralph Hancock, BYU Political Science, Professor

Lauren Heller, Associate Professor of Economics, Director of the Berry College Honors Program

Lindsay Hoffman, University of Delaware, Political Science Professor

Carson Holloway, University of Nebraska Political Science Professor, Author

Dustin Jansen, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies, Utah Valley University

Don Kettl, Sid Richardson Professor at the LBJ School, Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Volcker Alliance, University of Texas-Austin, School of Public Affairs

John Kincaid, Robert B. & Helen S. Meyner Professor of Government & Public Service Director of the Meyner Center, Lafayette College

Douglas Kmiec, Former Ambassador to Malta, Pepperdine Constitutional Law Professor

Doug Laycock, University of Virginia Law and Religious Studies Professor

Daniel J. Mallinson, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration, School of Public Affairs, Pennsylvania State University

Grace Mallon, DPhil candidate in History at the University of Oxford

David Moore, BYU Law Professor

Phillip Munoz, Notre Dame University Religion and Public Life Law Professor

Robert Nagal, Rothgerber Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Colorado Law School

Ilya Somin, Washington Post Columnist, George Mason University Law Professor

Robert Natelson, Constitutional Law Professor (retired)

Lance Sorenson, Olin-Darling Fellow in Constitutional Law, Stanford Law School

Candi Carter Olson, Utah State University College of Humanities and Social Sciences Professor

G. Alan Tarr, Board of Governors Professor Emeritus, Director Center for State Constitutional Studies, Rutgers University

Walter Olson, Senior fellow at the Cato Institute's Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies

John Vile, Professor of Political Science, Dean, University Honors College, Middle Tennessee State University

Harry Scheiber, University of California Law and History Professor

Eugene Volokh, UCLA First Amendment Law Professor

David Scott, Rice University Statistics Professor

Sonja West, University of Georgia First Amendment Law Professor

Carmel Shachar, Executive Director of the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics, Harvard Law School

Keith Whittington, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics, Princeton University

Jennifer Selin, Kinder Institute Assistant Professor of Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri

Robin Fretwell Wilson, University of Illinois Family Policy Law Professor

Troy E. Smith, Professor, Brigham Young University-Hawai'i; Center for the Study of Federalism, Fellow

Ernest A. Young, Alston & Bird Professor of Law, Duke University

Michael Zuckert, University of Notre Dame Political Science Department Chair

Historians

Randall Ballmer, Author, Religious Historian, Dartmouth Professor

Nick Bunker, Author, George Washington Prize-winner

Kevan Barton, Historian for the Utah Society of Mayflower Descendant

Nicholas Cole, Oxford History Professor, Quill Project Founder

Brian Domitrovic, Sam Houston State
University Economics and History Professor

Rebecca Fraiser, Author, Journalist, and
Broadcaster

Sally Gordon, University of Pennsylvania
American Religious History Professor

Katherine Grandjean, Author, Professor of
History, Wellesley College

Polly Ha, Author, Historian, Associate
Professor, University of East Anglia

Caleb Johnson, Author, Mayflower Historian,
Genealogist

David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning
Author

Nathaniel Philbrick, Historian, Author, Pulitzer
Prize finalist

Jack Rakove, Pulitzer Prize-winning Historian

Jan Shipps, Religious Historian

Nicholas Vincent, British Library Magna Carta
Specialist, East Anglia College History
Professor

Gordon Wood, Pulitzer Prize-winning
Historian

Jurists

Catherine Crum, ACLU Speech, Privacy, and
Technology Project Attorney

Alexander Dushku, Religious Liberty Attorney

Judge Sir Christopher Greenwood, International
Court of Justice

Judge Thomas Griffith, DC Circuit Court of
Appeals

Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, Chief Justice
Pakistan Supreme Court

Hannah Smith, Senior Counsel, Becket Fund
for Religious Liberty

Public Figures

David Archuleta, Musician

Jason Chaffetz, Former Utah Congressman

Ross Douthat, New York Times Columnist

Kirk Ellis, John Adams Screenwriter

Lee Groberg, Filmmaker

Daniel Hannan, Member of European Parliament representing the United Kingdom

Denise Hearn, Author and Businesswoman

Rachel Davison Humphries, Director of Outreach at the Bill of Rights Institute

Ernest Istook, Former Oklahoma Congressman

David A. Kaplan, Former Columnist at Newsweek and Fortune Magazine, Author

Michael Leavitt, Former Health and Human Services Secretary, EPA Administrator, and Utah Governor

Mike Lee, Utah Senator

Rebecca Lockhart, Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives

Dallin H. Oaks, Member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, Former Utah Supreme Court Justice

Tom Ridge, Former Homeland Security Secretary

Naomi Riley, New York Post Columnist

David Stirling, President and CEO of Doterra

Jonathan Turley, Television News Legal Analyst, George Washington University Law Professor

Elizabeth Wydra, Constitutional Accountability Center President