



# ERIC VOEGELIN INSTITUTE

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

[www.lsu.edu/voegelin](http://www.lsu.edu/voegelin)

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

## *From the Director:*

Working together with the LSU Honors College, the Voegelin Institute will sponsor a major lecture series this coming year on the theme, “Millennial Classics,” bringing to campus leading scholars and teachers from the nation’s top universities to discuss the value of studying great books as part of an undergraduate education. The series begins with a lecture by Norma Thompson, Senior Lecturer in the Humanities and Associate Director of the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University, on Monday, October 17, at 3:30 p.m.: “Can You Learn More from a Person or from a Book?” The lecture will be held in the Grand Salon of the French House.

Our series aims to introduce students to the truly radical experience of encountering great minds by reading their works and learning how to enter a dialogue with them. LSU students can find courses—not a few of them in Honors—where faculty wrestle with such books and bring that dialogue to life. Other lecturers in the series will include Anthony Grafton of Princeton and Michael Pakaluk of Catholic University. As always, check out our [website](#) for more events and details, and you can follow us on Facebook



[@VoegelinInstitute](#) and on Twitter [@VoegelinEric](#). Do stop by to visit us in Stubbs 216.

**James R. Stoner, Jr.**  
Hermann Moyse, Jr.,  
Professor of Political  
Science & Director of  
the Eric Voegelin  
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## Constitution Day Lecture Kicks Off 2016-17 Academic Year

Hadley Arkes, who is Edward N. Ney Professor in American Institutions, Emeritus, at Amherst College and Founder and Director of the James Wilson Institute on Natural Rights and the American Founding in Washington, DC, gave a critical appreciation of the jurisprudence of his late friend, Justice Antonin Scalia, in a Constitution Day Lecture at the LSU Law Center, co-sponsored by the Law Center, the Voegelin Institute, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society. Commenting on Arkes’s September 15 talk were Professors Raymond Diamond and Paul Baier of the LSU Law Center. Arkes argued that Scalia, despite his insistence that the Constitution and the law were ultimately anchored only in popular decree, could not help but acknowledge principles of lawfulness that have implicit authority, whether or not they are declared in a written text. To Diamond, Scalia’s jurisprudence was in practice, against his intent, “result-oriented,” while Baier agreed with Arkes that judges should apply moral principle, though invoking different principles. A spirited exchange ensued (pictured above), ending, quipped Arkes, in “heated agreement.”

## Voegelin Institute Welcomes Post-doctoral Fellow Joshua Bowman, Writing on Thoreau and Politics



Joshua Bowman, who earned his Ph.D. last spring at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, joined the Institute this academic year as a post-doctoral researcher. Winner of a fellowship from the Charles Koch Foundation, Dr. Bowman chose to work at the Voegelin Institute, where he will develop his book manuscript on Henry David Thoreau—the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of whose birth will be noted in 2017—and the “environmental imagination,” as well as articles comparing Cambridge historian Quentin Skinner’s approach to the history of political thought to Eric Voegelin’s. In addition to writing, Bowman is managing editor of the journal *Anamnesis* and organizes the annual

conference of the Ciceronian Society. He is teaching two courses this year at LSU: in the fall, a course on the American Presidency, and in the spring, a course on imagination and politics.

## Undergraduate Reading Groups Forming in “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics”

In conjunction with the Millennial Classics lecture series, the Voegelin Institute received a grant to support undergraduates willing to read classic texts in “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics,” a cluster of fields well-known from an Oxford degree with that name and increasingly popular in the United States. EVI has funds to buy books for over a dozen students and will facilitate their meeting to discuss the works on their own, free of the pressures of the classroom. Books on the agenda include Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations*, Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*, John Stuart Mill’s *On Liberty*, and, in the spring, Aristotle’s *Ethics*, the topic of a capstone conference now being planned.

## Faculty Seminar Series Continues with “Beyond Secularism?” Theme and Expands Scope

After a successful launch last year with faculty presentations on the theme of “Classical Reception,” the EVI-sponsored Interdisciplinary Humanities Faculty Seminar continues this year with papers scheduled on the theme, “Beyond Secularism?” Sherri Johnson, Assistant Professor of History, led off the series with a paper on “Diodata Malvasia: A Renaissance Nun and the Protection of the Virgin Mary”; History Professor Christine Kooi presents next on “Calvinism and War.” In addition, we plan in the spring to read together a couple Shakespeare plays, with discussions led by visiting experts—for example, Princeton’s Anthony Grafton, lecturing as well during the spring term—and local talent.



## Co-sponsored Events in 2016-17:

The Voegelin Institute is actively co-sponsoring events on the LSU campus this coming year:

- Panel, “Affirmative Action and the University: An Inside View of *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*,” featuring Allan Van Fleet, who filed an amicus brief for the Heman Sweatt family in the case, and Law Dean Thomas Galligan, Monday, October 10, 3:00 in Hill Memorial Library.
- Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Lecture by historian Daniel Rodgers of Princeton University, “Age of Fracture: The Transformation of Ideas and Society in Modern America,” Thursday, October 20, at 3:30 pm, in the Grand Salon of the French House.

More events are in the works; keep an eye on our website, Facebook, or Twitter accounts, or join our mailing list by writing [voegelin@lsu.edu](mailto:voegelin@lsu.edu).

Our chief joint venture remains our work with the Eric Voegelin Society, sponsor of about a dozen panels at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. We support their reception and post papers from their panels on the EVI website—where we have an archive stretching back thirty years.



John Kitch, LSU Graduate Student in Political Science, won a grant to spend a week in August doing dissertation research at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas. He received travel funding from EVI.