

ERIC VOEGELIN INSTITUTE

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

www.lsu.edu/voegelin

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

From the Director:

In our politically polarized era, one of the few things on which political scientists of both parties agree is that there is a crisis in civic education. Students graduate from high school, and even from the university, with little understanding of the institutions of American government, not to mention American political history or the political principles that have shaped our development as a people. What is to be done?

Naturally enough, opinions differ. Some stress civic engagement, urging youth participation in politics and in civic causes, learning-by-doing, so to speak. Others emphasize the importance of learning about the Constitution and its history, taking ownership of the American tradition in preparation for playing a mature role in civic life.

Although anyone who knows me can guess toward which camp I incline, I am proud that the Institute will be involved this spring in a genuinely cross-partisan effort to chart a roadmap to "Educating for American Democracy," hosting a working meeting of national scholars and presenting a public program for the LSU community involving several of the leaders of the group. We're grateful for the help of the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office for Research & Economic Development in welcoming this initiative to LSU.



James Stoner

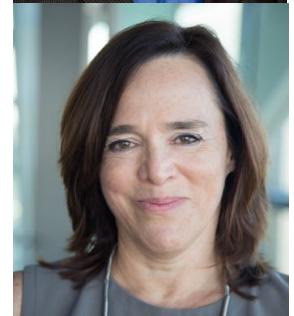
Hermann Moyse, Jr.,
Professor of
Political
Science &
Director of the
Voegelin
Institute
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Voegelin Institute to Host National Meeting at LSU on Teaching Civics

The Eric Voegelin Institute will host a working meeting for a national group of university faculty and civics educators on February 2-4, 2020, at LSU. Funded by a \$650,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the project, "Educating for American Democracy," will design a roadmap for the reform of civics education in the United States, drawing on the scholarly expertise of leading political scientists and historians at the university level and the pedagogical experience of civics teachers and educational professionals. Coordinated by iCivics, a nonprofit based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which is the nation's largest provider of civic education curriculum and resources, the group has two task forces already at work in preparation for the February meeting. A subsequent gathering to draft its report will be held in March at the School for Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership (SCETL) at Arizona State University, with a complete report due to be released in Washington in September.

The co-PIs on the grant, pictured at right in alphabetical order from the top, are Prof. Danielle Allen, director of the Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard; Prof. Paul Carrese, director of SCETL at ASU; Louise Dubé, executive director of iCivics; Dr. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University; and Prof.

Peter Levine, Associate Dean of the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts. Professors Allen and Carrese will join panelists from LSU and Southern University for a public conversation on the meeting theme on Tuesday, February 4, at 3:00 pm, at the Ogden Honors College.





Apgar Foundation Funds Faculty Workshop at Ogden Honors College on Teaching European Civilization

How can we teach the great texts of the Western tradition, once the core of a liberal education, to the contemporary student in the modern world? Thanks to a generous grant from the Apgar Foundation, that question is at the heart of a faculty workshop organized by the Voegelin Institute and held under the auspices of the Ogden Honors College at LSU. The college has recently reworked its European civilization courses, and the workshop gathers for conversation ten faculty who have taught, might teach, or will be teaching one of the courses, from fields as diverse as English, History, Political Science, Classics, Spanish, and Music, sometimes welcoming guest speakers, sometimes working through texts and issues on our own.

Leading off the fall series was Prof. Jeremy Mhire of Louisiana Tech, who spent last year as a visiting professor at Columbia University in New York, teaching in their core curriculum, which was established one hundred years ago and remains a model for programs around the country (pictured above between Prof. Stoner and Ogden Honors Dean Jonathan Earle, himself a Columbia graduate who took the core). Also speaking was Prof. Elizabeth Campbell Corey, Director of the Honors Program at Baylor University (pictured with Dr. Drew Lamonica Arms, right, Honors fellowship adviser). Both Drs. Mhire and Corey earned their PhDs from LSU and are Voegelin Institute alumni.

EVI, Law Center Host Major Lectures

The Voegelin Institute brought noted Catholic lawyer Helen Alvaré of the Antonin Scalia Law School to deliver this year's Constitution Day Lecture, "Religious Liberty as Freedom of the Church," on September 19, 2019, with U.S. Fifth Circuit Judge S. Kyle Duncan as her discussant. The lecture was made possible by a grant from the Jack Miller Center. Then on September 27 EVI co-sponsored with the Law Center's Pugh Institute for Justice and the Black Law Students Association a lecture by Yale Law Professor James Forman, Jr., on his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*.



Upcoming Lectures, Spring 2020

- Josiah Ober, *Stanford University*, "Glaucón's Dilemma: Origins of Social Order," Mon., 2/17, 3:30 pm, Sternberg Salon/Honors College
- Michael Kochin, *Tel Aviv University*, "Showdown at Fort Miamis: War & Diplomacy in the Anglo-American Crisis of 1794," Wed., 2/19, noon, Stubbs 210
- Kathy Eden, *Columbia University*, "Is Reason the Renaissance Experience?" Mon., 3/16, 3:30 pm, Sternberg Salon/Honors College
- Jason Riley, *Wall Street Journal*, "The Economics and Politics of Race," Wed., 3/18, 5:00 pm, Holliday Forum, Journalism Building
- Paul Rahe, *Hillsdale College*, keynote lecture for Spring Conference, "Reason & Revolution," Fri., 4/3, 3:30 pm, Hill Memorial Library; conference Sat., 4/4, at the French House/ Honors College
- Stephen Smith, *Notre Dame Law School*, title and date to be announced, McKernan Auditorium, LSU Law Center

Aristotle Research Seminar

Thanks to a grant from LSU's Center for Collaborative Knowledge, the Voegelin Institute has organized a six-session seminar for five faculty and two graduate students from Physics, Oceanography, Political Science, Law, Philosophy, and English/Classics to discuss Aristotle's scientific, logical, ethical, and other works. The seminar is the first phase of a major initiative the Institute is planning called "The Aristotle Update," assessing the historical influence and contemporary standing of Aristotle's philosophical work.

VoegelinView Website Redesign

The Voegelin Institute supported the redesign of the website journal *Voegelin View*, <https://voegelinview.com>. Edited by LSU alumnus Lee Trepanier (PhD, '01), the site, which publishes new material daily, is the foremost venue on the web for scholarship about Eric Voegelin and for discussion of his ideas and influence.

