

MSC Wiley Lecture Series

2016-2017 ANNUAL REVIEW





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For thirty-four years, the MSC Wiley Lecture Series has provided thought-provoking programming on U.S. foreign policy issues, bringing the world to Texas A&M. This academic year, MSC Wiley hosted five symposia, exploring topics ranging from voter ID laws to US-Cuba relations. On March 31, for our showcase event, we hosted an esteemed panel to discuss American nationalism and the future of US-Mexico relations.



Thirty-six undergraduate students, including myself, had the one-of-a-kind opportunity to host the former president of Mexico and to develop skills along the way that are essential for our success in future careers. Through this position, I have gained confidence in decision-making, broadened my understanding of teamwork, and discovered a stronger interest in political issues.

This year, we strived to improve our online presence in an effort to reach a broader audience and to better serve our constituents, including frequent Facebook updates and recordings of our programs on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFedFmip9X332M8JlgQuwWg>.

The legacy continues because of your support. Join us next year as we celebrate thirty-five years of MSC Wiley programs!

Rebecca Matlock '18, Wiley Chair 2016-2017

The MSC Wiley Lecture Series exists to broaden the educational experiences of the Texas A&M community by encouraging thought-provoking programs on national and foreign policy issues.



MAIN PROGRAM

America First? The Future of US-Mexico Relations

On March 31, 2017, the MSC Wiley Lecture Series hosted its showcase event, which explored how the ‘America First’ perspective that the Trump Administration has set forth will affect US-Mexico relations going forward. The program’s three distinguished guests, Felipe Calderón, former President of Mexico from 2006 to 2012; Congressman Will Hurd, U.S. Representative of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas; and Dr. Laura Tyson, Former Director of the National Economic Council, shared their unique experiences and invaluable insights with an engaged audience of students, faculty, and community members.

The three speakers highlighted, contextualized, and critiqued the current and future relationship between the United States and Mexico. The discussion, moderated by NPR Morning Edition’s Steve Inskeep, centered on the upcoming policy changes with regard to immigration, business partnerships, and law enforcement between the neighboring countries.

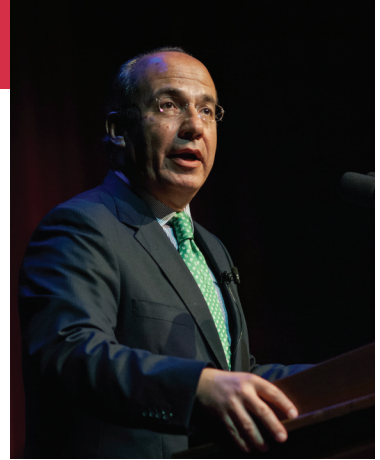
The speakers explored the relationship from both American and Mexican points of view. They discussed possible changes to NAFTA that could be made to benefit both nations and emphasized that trade between the US and Mexico is an important relationship that should be carefully developed.

In closing, the panelists made it clear that the partnership between the US and Mexico is not going to dissipate in the near future, and that attitude and policy changes should develop to foster this relationship.

SPEAKERS

President Felipe Calderón

President of Mexico, 2006-2012



Felipe Calderón is one of Latin America's most distinguished leaders. He is internationally recognized as a President who strengthened the rule of law and made possible the economic recovery of Mexico after the world economic crisis. During his term he implemented public policies that projected Mexico as a powerful player in the global economy. He was named "Statesman of the Year" by the World Economic Forum, and considered one of the 100 most influential people by Time magazine.

Felipe Calderón served as President of Mexico from 2006 to 2012. Previously, he was Secretary of Energy (and as such chaired the boards of PEMEX and CFE) and director of Banobras (National Bank of Public Works and Services). He was both local and federal congressman, leader of the National Action Party (PAN) in the Federal Congress and General Secretary and National President of PAN.

President Calderón has a degree in law from the Escuela Libre de Derecho; holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México as well as a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Apart from leading an unprecedented effort to strengthen the rule of law in Mexico, during his administration the Mexican economy achieved stability and growth. Despite the impact of the 2009 international economic crisis, Mexico's competitiveness was boosted by policies aimed at deregulation, free trade, competition, private investment and technical education as well as increased investment in infrastructure. During his tenure, Mexico became one of the world's biggest exporters, accounting for 60% of the total manufacturing exports in Latin America and the Caribbean. When he took office, Mexico was the ninth exporter of vehicles worldwide, by the end of his administration it was the fourth largest.

Felipe Calderón hosted and chaired the G-20 Summit of Leaders, the most important forum of heads of state and government. He also chaired the UN Conference on Climate Change COP 16, which marked a new era of cooperation in this field.

He has been named "Statesman of the Year" by the World Economic Forum and "Champion of the Earth" by the United Nations. He has received the Teddy Roosevelt Award for the Environment, the GLOBE Award from the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment, the International Star of Energy Efficiency award, among other important awards as a world leader on environmental issues.



Dr. Laura Tyson

Director, National Economic Council, 1995-1996

Dr. Laura D'Andrea Tyson is a Professor and Director of the Institute for Business and Social Impact at the Haas School of Business and the chair of the Board of Trustees of the Blum Center for Developing Economies at the University of California, Berkeley. She served as Dean of London Business School from 2002 through 2006 and as Dean of the Berkeley Haas School of Business from 1998 through 2001.

Dr. Tyson was a member of the US Department of State Foreign Affairs Policy Board from 2011 to 2013. She served as a member of President Barack Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness from 2011 to 2012 and as a member of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board

from 2009 to 2011.

Tyson was a member of President Clinton's cabinet between 1993 and 1996. She was the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers from 1993 to 1995. She was the Chair of the National Economic Council and the President's National Economic Adviser from 1995 to 1996.

Dr. Tyson is currently a Senior Advisor at Credit Suisse Research Institute and The Rock Creek Group. She is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and is on the Advisory Council of the Brookings Institution Hamilton Project. She is an advisory board member of Pave, Inc., Generation Investment Management, H&Q Asia Pacific, and Tykoon. She is a member of the Economic Advisory Board of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation. She is the chair of the Board of Trustees of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute and an advisory committee member of the Presidential Leaders Scholars. She is a member of the international advisory council of Bocconi University.

Tyson currently serves as an Advisor to the Alliance for Competitive Taxation. She is a Special Advisor at the Berkeley Research Group. She serves on the National Academies' Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy and is a member of its Innovation Policy Forum. She is a member of the Berggruen Institute on Governance's Think Long Committee for California, 21st Century Council and Governance Index. She is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Women's Empowerment.

Tyson is a member of the Boards of Directors of Morgan Stanley, AT&T, CBRE Group Inc., and Silver Spring Networks. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the non-profit Jacobs Foundation.

Dr. Tyson has written books and articles on industrial competitiveness and trade. She has also written opinion columns for many publications including BusinessWeek, The New York Times and the Financial Times and she has made numerous television appearances on economic issues. She is on the editorial board of the International Economy. She is a regular contributor to Project Syndicate.

Congressman Will Hurd

U.S. Representative for the 23rd Congressional District of Texas



Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Congressman Will Hurd is a proud product of the Texas public school system. He attended John Marshall High School and Texas A&M University, where he majored in Computer Science and served as Student Body President.

After college, Congressman Hurd served as an undercover officer in the CIA in the Middle East and South Asia for nearly a decade, collecting intelligence that influenced the National Security agenda. Upon leaving the CIA, he became a Senior Advisor with a cybersecurity firm, covering a wide range of complex challenges faced by manufacturers, financial institutions, retailers, and critical infrastructure owners. He was also a partner with a strategic advisory firm helping businesses expand into international markets.

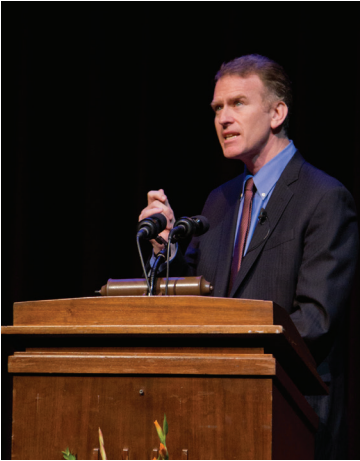
In 2015, Hurd was elected to the 114th Congress and currently serves on the Committee of Oversight and Government Reform and chairs the Information Technology Subcommittee. He also sits on the Committee on Homeland Security and is the Vice Chair of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee. In 2017, Hurd was appointed by Speaker Ryan to serve on the House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee, to replace Representative Mike Pompeo upon his confirmation as Director of the CIA.



MODERATOR

Steve Inskeep

Host, NPR Morning Edition



Steve Inskeep is host of NPR's Morning Edition, the most widely heard radio news program in the United States. He co-hosts the program with Renee Montagne and David Greene. Known for probing questions to everyone from presidents to warlords to musicians, Inskeep has a passion for stories of the less famous—like an American soldier who lost both feet in Afghanistan, or an Ethiopian woman's extraordinary journey to the United States.

Since joining Morning Edition in 2004, Inskeep has hosted the program from New Orleans, Detroit, Karachi, Cairo, Houston and Tehran; investigated Iraqi police in Baghdad; and received a 2006 Robert F. Kennedy journalism award for "The Price of African Oil," on conflict in Nigeria. In 2012 he traveled 2,700 miles across North Africa in the wake of the Arab Spring. In 2013 he reported from war-torn Syria, and on Iran's historic election. In 2014 he drove with colleagues 2,428 miles along the entire U.S.-Mexico border; the resulting radio series, "Borderland," won widespread attention, as did the acclaimed NPR online magazine of the same name. Inskeep says Morning Edition works to "slow down the news," making sense of fast-moving events. A prime example came during the 2008 Presidential campaign, when Inskeep and NPR's Michele Norris conducted "The York Project," groundbreaking conversations about race, which received an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton for excellence.

Inskeep was hired by NPR in 1996. His first full-time assignment was the 1996 presidential primary in New Hampshire. He went on to cover the Pentagon, the Senate, and the 2000 presidential campaign of George W. Bush. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, he covered the war in Afghanistan, turmoil in Pakistan, and the war in Iraq. In 2003, he received a National Headliner Award for investigating a military raid gone wrong in Afghanistan. He has twice been part of NPR News teams awarded the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton for coverage of Iraq.

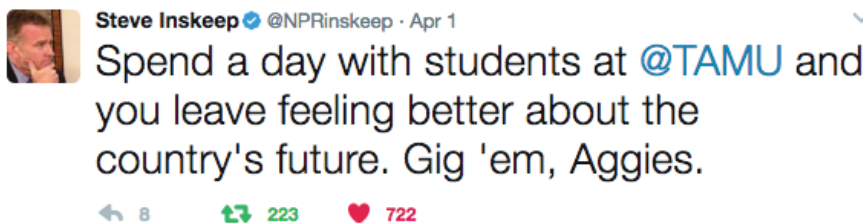
On days of bad news, Inskeep is inspired by the Langston Hughes book, *Laughing to Keep From Crying*. Of hosting Morning Edition during the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession, he told *Nuvo* magazine when "the whole world seemed to be falling apart, it was especially important for me ... to be amused, even if I had to be cynically amused, about the things that were going wrong. Laughter is a sign that you're not defeated." Inskeep is the author of *Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi*, a 2011 book on one of the world's great megacities. He is also author of *Jacksonland*, a forthcoming history of President Andrew Jackson's long-running conflict with John Ross, a Cherokee chief who resisted the removal of Indians from the eastern United States in the 1830's.

IMPACT

“Being Mexican-American, I gained a new perspective on the relations.”
- Main Program attendee



“I think the caliber and resume of speakers continues to be unmatched.”
- Main Program attendee



“Do not look to trade and trade agreements and ripping up NAFTA as anything that will address manufacturing employment losses in the United States,... They are not the cause, and ripping up those agreements will make things worse, not better.”
- Dr. Laura Tyson

“The complex relationship between us is about how to build a stronger more competitive economy as a whole in North America, because this is the only way these economies can compete in the world...Mexico is not the enemy, Mexicans are not the enemies of the U.S. and I hope we can understand that. We need to work together...The only way in which we can secure both sides of the border is by working together, and I hope that in the future we can all understand that and that America will continue to be great and Mexico will be great one day as well.”
- President Felipe Calderón



“In order to be good stewards of hard-earned taxpayer dollars, we should leverage that in the most efficient way that actually solves the problem. We can protect the border and facilitate the movement of goods and services at the same time.”
- Congressman Will Hurd

“Love these lectures. Keep the traditions going. Can’t wait for the next!”
- Main Program attendee

SYMPOSIA

License to Vote: Voter ID Laws and the Constitution



On September 14th, MSC Wiley’s annual Constitution Day program discussed voter ID laws and the Constitution. We hosted Eric Opiela, JD., State Representative Gene Wu, and Dr. Brittany Perry. Mr. Opiela discussed the value of voter ID laws for decreasing voter fraud in elections. Representative Wu presented the case that these laws discriminate against minority populations, namely the Latino/a and African American populations. Dr. Perry moderated the discussion. The audience number set the standard high for the rest of the semester with 120+ in the room and 113 turned away. The large audience resulted in a stimulating Q&A portion of the program after the conclusion of the moderated discussion.

To Say or Not To Say: Freedom of Speech Across College Campuses

On October 27th, MSC Wiley hosted a program to discuss the extent to which freedom of speech should be allowed on college campuses across the United States. Our guest speakers were Mr. Jerry M. Brown J.D, director of the Student Affairs and Special Projects section in the Office of General Counsel at Texas A&M University, and Mr. Chance Weldon J.D, attorney for the Texas Public Policy Foundation with a focus in cases regarding civil liberties like freedom of speech. The speakers emphasized how keeping free speech unobstructed on campus is vital to creating a “marketplace of ideas” and spreading morality and reason instead of ignorance. They also discussed the use of counter-speech against harmful and ignorant speech.

InstaVote: Boosting Poll Numbers Through Social Media

On November 2nd, Wiley held a symposium to discuss how current election candidates use social media to boost public support. Dr. Lindita Camaj and Dr. Kirby Goidel served as guest speakers and the program was moderated by Dr. Johanna Dunaway. Dr. Camaj is a former reporter on elections in Eastern Europe and currently serves as an assistant professor at the University of Houston. Dr. Goidel is a professor and fellow in the Department of Communication and the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University. Dr. Dunaway is a published associate professor of communication also at Texas A&M. The speakers discussed how politicians, particularly 2016 US presidential candidates, use social media to bridge the gap with voters, save money through free media exposure, and respond to critics more easily. They also noted that the increased political social media use has led to increased partisanship among the electorate. Students in the audience were most curious about how media will eventually affect voter behavior and future policymaking.

A New Era: US - Cuba Relations

On February 2nd, MSC Wiley hosted a lecture discussing the future of US-Cuba relations. This lecture featured Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Glenn Hegar and Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics Professor and Department Head Dr. Parr Rosson. The conversation was moderated by Dr. Jason Parker, Associate Professor of History. The speakers discussed the economic benefits of increased trade with Cuba. Dr. Rosson focused on the agricultural trade with Cuba, while Mr. Hegar discussed Texas's economic situation. With Texas exporting more goods than any state in the union, this has the potential to be a very profitable relationship, according to Mr. Hegar. Dr. Rosson argued that since the relationship with Cuba has been tense in recent decades, increasing agricultural trade can help to improve the relationship. By the end of the lecture, both speakers came to the same conclusion: increased trade with Cuba has great potential to help restore relations between the countries while economically benefitting the United States.

Artificial Intelligence in the Military

On February 22nd, MSC Wiley hosted a panel discussing the social and technological impacts of incorporating current and future artificial intelligence (AI) in the military environment. To speak on this topic, we had Dr. James Burk from Texas A&M's Sociology Department, Colonel Robert Brown, and Dr. Yoonsuck Choe from Texas A&M's Computer Science Department, while Dr. Daniel Ragsdale moderated. Dr. Burk presented the social and ethical implications of artificial intelligence. Colonel Robert Brown talked about how such technologies are currently used in the military, and in what ways they can grow. Dr. Yoonsuck Choe discussed the technological side of the program. He talked about the difference between various types of AI based on the amount of human involvement. He also talked about the usage of AI in modern international affairs such as the DMZ. He explored the probability of technology-only warfare and what factors are involved. Overall, the conversation covered how AI technology currently affects, and could affect, people on an individual, as well as on a global, level.







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