



BAKER SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FINDING **COMMON**
GROUND

YOU MIGHT BE
RIGHT



CONFIDENCE
IN AMERICA'S INSTITUTIONS

THE YEAR OF NEW



“
There are no limits to what you can accomplish,
except the limits you place on your own thinking.
”

—SENATOR BAKER

The Year of New

On July 1, 2023, the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs was founded,

bringing to life the Senator’s dream of a school for public policy at the University of Tennessee. We have redeployed all of the former Baker Center’s assets to align with our updated mission: educating skilled public problem solvers, grounded in the legacy of Howard Baker, and prepared to take leadership roles in their communities. The Baker School is now offering two graduate degrees for working professionals: a Masters of Public Policy degree and a Masters of Public Administration degree. This fall, we will admit the first class of undergraduate students into a new Baker School major in Public Affairs. Our building, our faculty, and our staff are ready for the challenge.



Marianne H. Wanamaker

The Baker School is a place where students get hands-on experience in solving public problems through opportunities like the Washington Fellows program, the newly-created Japanese Ambassadors program, our Local Government Fellows internships through the Institute of American Civics (IAC), and a new Living and Learning Community. Research centers housed within the Baker School – The Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs (NSFA) and the Center for Energy, Transportation and Environmental Policy (CETEP) are leading our campus in interdisciplinary research and engagement, as well as educating students in the science of public policy.

2023 was an extraordinary year at the Baker School. I hope you enjoy this recap of the year that changed our history forever.



Marianne H. Wanamaker

DEAN, HOWARD H. BAKER JR. SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SENATOR HOWARD H. BAKER JR.

The late Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., sometimes referred to as “The Great Conciliator,” grew up in Huntsville, Tennessee, and served as a U.S. Senator, Senate Majority Leader, White House Chief of Staff, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan. His Senate leadership resulted in landmark legislation, including the Panama Canal Treaty and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

Founded in 2003, the Baker Center has sought to foster a living tribute to the legacy of Baker by conducting research, informing policy, and convening critical conversations. In 2023, the Baker Center became the Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, the first school of its kind in the State of Tennessee.



Howard H. Baker Jr.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

WASHINGTON FELLOWS

Washington Fellows is a two-week immersive study trip to Washington, D.C. Fellows meet with Washington insiders, including elected officials, policy staff, government relations professionals, and journalists. Fellows explore the political system and what it is like to work in policy-related fields, as well as seeing the sights of the capital. The program connects Baker students with some of the nation's top public servants, showing students the impact they can make in a public sector career.

JAPAN AMBASSADORS

Students selected as Japan Ambassadors go to Japan during the summer and visit museums, cultural sites, think tanks, and Japanese government offices. They meet with U.S. diplomatic staff, Japanese policy experts, university students, and researchers. The trip is led by Krista Wiegand, Baker School director of the Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs. The program honors the legacy of Sen. Howard Baker's service as U.S. ambassador to Japan and continues the good relationships he built while there.

THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Students selected as Tennessee General Assembly interns get an up-close experience working in the Tennessee General Assembly. Interns are assigned to legislative offices for the session and work with legislators and their staff. This program, which has been in place for more than 50 years, is jointly administered by the Baker School and the UTK Political Science Department, UT Institute of Agriculture and funded by the UT Foundation.

THE CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Students selected as Congressional interns receive an assignment to work in congressional offices in Washington, D.C. to gain experience in government and policy work. They get an opportunity to put what they learned in UT classes about analyzing issues, government structures, and public policy to the test. The Baker School's Institute of American Civics and UT's Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration sponsor the program.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

"I gained a lot from this internship, such as getting a deep understanding of the complexities of congressional proceedings, which has helped me to understand better some of the current issues occurring in Congress. My biggest takeaway was learning that running a congressional office is a major team effort. It was refreshing to learn that people who support our senators are often young adults who bring high energy and new ideas to these offices."



Left to right: Rebecca Giles and Lucy Marret

—REBECCA GILES
a senior who interned for Sen. Bill Hagerty

"The internship program opened doors for me to stay on Capitol Hill and work on policy, even as a recent graduate. Although I did not stay on the Hill for long after, the internship and subsequent staff role were great steppingstones for working on policy at the federal level. I had the opportunity to work on a variety of legislative issues and determine both what I have an interest in and, more importantly, what I do not have an interest in."

—LUCY MARRET
a 2023 UT graduate who interned for Sen. Bill Hagerty





Japanese Ambassadors: Back Row: Jack Duncan, Japanese University Student, Japanese Student, Noah McGill, Dana Baszel, Noland Ragland; Middle Row: Zoe Ward, Lillian Healy, Tyler Staszewski, Morgan Furman, Josephine Rich, Juliet Gear; Front Row: Japanese Student, Mary Roark



Washington Fellows, from left to right: Back Row: Lucian Bunch, Peter Skehan, Sophia Milen, Julia Briggs, Dr. Jon Ring, Avery Kerley; Middle Row: Namrita Varier, Ishita Kapur, Joy Riddle, Makaela Webb, Lindsay Herrell, Lauren Eckley; Front Row: Emily Holden, Grace Gee, Erica Ury



UTK 2023 Grads, from left to right: Lucy Marrett, Emily Gwidir, Juliet Gear, Zoe Ward, Aom Boom; Front: Nolan Ragland



TLIP Interns

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Masters of Public Policy and Public Administration (MPPA)

In Fall 2023, the Baker School admitted its inaugural class of graduate students. Baker graduate students are learning the art and science of public policy and public administration. They will leave the Baker School prepared to become effective leaders grounded in civility and integrity following the tradition of Senator Howard H. Baker Jr.



Students in an MPPA class



Student recruitment event



Graduate Juliet Gear celebrates her Torchbearer award.



Madison Lackey

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Graduate student **Madison Lackey** was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will spend nine months in Brazil as an English teacher assistant at the Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul Letras.

Lackey's interests have always been on the theoretical side of politics. However, she found herself discouraged by the lack of change she was seeing in government and knew that she wanted to do something to help change that. Director of Graduate Studies for the Baker School, Dr. Xuhong Su spoke to her undergraduate constitutional law class about the Baker School's masters degrees. By the end of that class, Lackey knew the Baker program was perfect for her interests and desire to manifest change. Along with participating in the Baker graduate program, Lackey is a graduate assistant for Dr. Jon Ring, director of undergraduate studies at the Baker School. She mentors the Baker School's undergraduate students and is a teaching assistant for Baker's undergraduate Policy Analytics course. Professor Su stated, "She is a living example of academic excellence and a strong advocate for public values... The program wishes her the best in her Fulbright trip and welcomes her back when that journey is completed."

RESEARCH CENTERS

As the Year of New continued, The Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs hosted a ribbon cutting to launch new research centers – the Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs (NSFA) and the Center for Energy, Transportation, and Environmental Policy (CETEP).

NSFA and CETEP were previously known as the Global Security Program and the Energy and Environment Program, which were part of the Baker Center.

NSFA faculty, fellows, and affiliates provide critical insights through research on national and international security and foreign policy solutions focused on Indo-Pacific security and economic relations.

“With the launch of the new center, we’ve gained research affiliates from across the UTK campus,” said Dr. Krista Wiegand, NSFA director. “National security is closely linked with issues of economic policy, manufacturing and workforce skills, media and communications, and environmental changes. The lectures we’ve hosted this year intentionally highlight the multi-faceted nature of national security, and have illustrated some of the opportunities for productive partnerships among an interdisciplinary group of faculty who have a shared interest in national security policy and foreign affairs. I’m also proud that we were awarded funding by the State Department to organize a two-week diplomatic academy in northern Japan for undergraduate and graduate students. Our program will focus on the workings of diplomacy and foreign policy decision making, including the key role of the U.S.-Japan alliance in the security of the Indo-Pacific region. The academy is a meaningful way to continue Senator Howard Baker’s legacy and service as U.S. ambassador to Japan.”

CETEP’s affiliated faculty and experts work at the intersection of energy and transportation technology innovation, the natural environment, energy markets, and



Dr. Krista Wiegand (left) and Dr. Charles Sims (right)

human behavior. These collaborations are increasingly valuable to policymakers. CETEP supports the State of Tennessee’s Energy Policy Council and closely partners with Tennessee Valley Authority and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

“It’s an exciting time for CETEP,” said Dr. Charles Sims, the center’s director. “Our inaugural Southeast Energy Policy Forum attracted more than 100 leaders from both the public and private sector to talk about navigating new energy markets, decarbonization trends, demand-side technologies, and transportation electrification. Through the generosity of UT alumnus Tom Gilbert, we’ll be able to expand our efforts related to conservation and sustainability, including student engagement and programming that encourages our best and brightest to pursue careers in environmental policy. We’re also in conversations about the role the center can play in maintaining partnerships across the Tennessee Valley to work toward net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, pursuing the strategies identified in the Valley Pathways Study we’ve worked on this past year.”

Fellows and affiliates working with NSFA and CETEP span 12 colleges and more than 20 departments at UT and extend to industry, every level of government, and the nonprofit sector.

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Left to right: Dean Marianne Wanamaker, Charles Sims, Laura Duncan, TVA CEO Jeff Lyash

CAMPUS EVENTS

TUESDAYS IN THE TOYOTA

The Baker School continues its tradition of organizing events and lectures aimed at providing students, faculty, and the community with access to cutting edge research and a diversity of viewpoints on the problems that matter most. The “Tuesdays in the Toyota” Lecture Series in Fall 2023 included a number of high profile speakers on important topics.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

The Institute of American Civics hosted the inaugural Civic Leadership Lecture Series this spring in partnership with Chancellor Donde Plowman and supported by the Office of the Provost. The flagship lecture series examines issues and ideas foundational to American Society. Featured speakers included Robert George of Princeton University, American Enterprise Institute’s Michael Strain, *The New York Times*’ David Leonhardt, Brigham Young University-Idaho’s Hyrum Lewis and Utah Valley University’s Verlan Lewis.



Josh Dunn



Senator Lamar Alexander



Students celebrating with Smokey

CAMPUS EVENTS

WELCOME WEEK CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate the School's launch, Baker School faculty and staff wanted to welcome students to campus in a big way. The Baker School kicked off Welcome Week with the annual Ice Cream Social - inviting all UTK students to drop by our west-side courtyard and enjoy ice cream with a variety of toppings.

On the first Big Orange Friday of the school year, the Baker School co-hosted the "Dogs with the Dogs" picnic with a chance to meet and play games with the most popular dog on campus Smokey!





Recording the podcast in Nashville



PODCAST

Few Baker School initiatives have had greater impact than our partnership with former Governors Bill Haslam and Phil Bredesen in creating a unique podcast modeled after Sen. Baker's most famous quote, "Always remember the other fella might be right."

Since the launch of the podcast *You Might Be Right* (YMBR):

- The podcast has been downloaded over 148,000 times.
- Listenership continues to grow rapidly, increasing by 50% in the last four months of 2023.
- Almost half of the downloads are from out-of-state listeners.

With topics ranging from gun violence to climate change, the podcast is leading the way in presenting diverse viewpoints from both sides of the political aisle. In recognition of the *You Might Be Right* podcast's impact, members of the Baker School Producers Circle pledged \$10,000 or more each to support the initiative. These partners recognized the importance of good government for the success of all Tennesseans. Their gifts are underwriting the production and promotion of the podcast, and they are making a meaningful contribution to educating the next generation of Tennessee public leaders in the legacy of Senator Baker.



Former Governors Bill Haslam and Phil Bredesen visit Nashville to record an episode of their podcast at the 3686 Nashville Entrepreneur Festival and to give a talk at the Greater Nashville Regional Council.

Left to right: Former Tennessee governors Phil Bredesen and Bill Haslam

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Randy and Jenny Boyd, individuals who demonstrate passion for education, public service, and the UT community, have significantly enriched the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Their philanthropic contribution—the Boyd Fund for Leadership Through Civil Discourse—demonstrates their commitment to be part of the solution.

In 2021, they recognized a need to foster respectful dialogue within political realms—a cornerstone of effective leadership—and established the Boyd Fund. This innovative initiative sponsors the Baker School's programs aimed at promoting civil discourse and impactful political leadership.

A significant outcome of this support is the podcast *You Might be Right*. Co-hosted by two former Tennessee Governors—Phil Bredesen and Bill Haslam—it serves as a platform where diverse viewpoints are respected, debated, and understood. The podcast embodies one of Senator Howard H. Baker Jr.'s most often-cited pieces of advice: "always keep in mind that the other fellow might be right." It's a reminder of the importance of approaching every discussion with an open mind—a philosophy that resonates deeply with both Randy and Jenny Boyd's vision for civil discourse.

Thank you, Randy & Jenny Boyd and all our donors - for embodying philanthropy with purpose!

THANK YOU DONORS*

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