



Newsletter - January 2019

Welcome to the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy newsletter. The excitement and energy of the congressional midterm elections played out right here at the Hughes Center, as reflected in the activities described here.



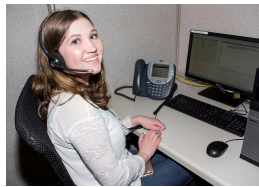
The highlight of our activities was hosting a debate between the major party candidates for Congressional District 2 on October 10, the first Hughes Center event to be televised live. The Stockton Polling Institute conducted five polls between September and November, focusing on Congressional Districts 2 and 3, and the U.S. Senate race in New Jersey, and the results generated interest across the region and nationally in publications like [The New York Times](#) and [Bloomberg](#).

Here on campus, we helped four students attend the Yale International Policy Competition, and we supported two inaugural events: [Coast Day](#) and the [Humanitarian Fair](#). I'm very proud of the work of our staff: [InsiderNJ's 2018 100 Power list](#) included Senior Research Associate John Froomjian among the top academics and pollsters in the state, and it ranked Carl Golden #32 among policy influencers.

We look forward to continuing to support the work of Stockton's students and faculty, and to contributing to policy debates in New Jersey in the new year. Please visit stockton.edu/hughescenter to stay up to date about the Hughes Center's activities, polls, and publications.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael W. Klein, Interim Executive Director



[Latest Poll Results](#)
Learn about the latest findings from the Stockton Polling Institute.



[2018 NJ Congressional District 2 Debate](#)
The Hughes Center hosted the event on Oct. 10.



[Esports Summit](#)
The Center supported the event that discussed how eSports could benefit Atlantic City.



[Hughes Center Activities](#)
Achievements and awards by Hughes Center members.



[Ambassador Hughes Remembers Former President George H. W. Bush](#)
Reminiscences by Hughes about his friend and colleague.



[Washington Internship Program Scholarship](#)
Meet the latest recipient of the Center's scholarship.

Latest results from the Polling Institute

Last fall the Stockton Polling Institute conducted multiple polls of more than 700 New Jersey adults about various issues of interest to state residents. A poll released in September showed Democrat Jeff Van Drew holding a sizable 23-point lead over Republican Seth Grossman in the race for New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District. Van Drew had strong name recognition as a state senator while Grossman, a former Atlantic County official, was unknown to 60 percent of respondents.



Watch videos with Dr. Klein and John Froomjian highlighting the latest polls on our [YouTube channel](#)

An October poll indicated that Van Drew's lead over Grossman had dropped to 17 percentage points. He still enjoyed the support of 92-percent of Democrats and 13-percent of Republicans, while his Republican challenger had virtually no Democratic support. "Senator Van Drew has been a member of the New Jersey Legislature since 2002, so it is clear that he is known and liked by a majority of 2nd District voters," said Michael Klein, interim executive director of the Hughes Center for Public Policy. Van Drew ended up winning the battle for the seat in Congress being vacated by Republican Frank LoBiondo, who retired this month, by 5 percentage points.

In the race for the U.S. Senate seat in New Jersey, our poll five weeks before the November 6 election showed incumbent Senator Bob Menendez holding a slim 2-point lead over Republican challenger Bob Hugin, a former pharmaceutical company CEO. Both major-party candidates faced criticism about their past: Menendez had recently been facing federal corruption charges that resulted in a hung jury and then the Justice Department dropping the charges, while Hugin's company Celgene had made a sizable profit from an expensive cancer drug. Dr. Klein commented that "Bob Hugin has been attacking Senator Menendez on ethics with a heavy advertising campaign. However, with so many voters still unfamiliar with the Republican, Menendez will likely try to define his challenger in negative terms."

In a later poll released in October, results showed that Menendez had increased his lead to 12 percentage points over Hugin, with support from his fellow Democratic party members rising from 80 to 87 percent, even though 44 percent of pollees viewed him unfavorably. Healthcare, President Trump, and taxes seemed to be most important to likely voters. "Even though his name is not on the ballot, President Trump's presence appears to be at the top of the ticket in New Jersey," said Dr. Klein. According to Dr. Klein, New Jersey voters' displeasure with the Trump administration outweighed their negative views of Menendez as a result of his indictment on federal corruption charges. Menendez won the election by a healthy 11-point margin to secure his third term as U.S. senator.

In the race for the 3rd Congressional District, incumbent Republican Tom MacArthur held a narrow 2-percentage-point lead over Democratic challenger Andy Kim, as reported in a poll that was released on October 15. Kim's support was based on opinions about healthcare and opposition to Donald Trump and the Republican party. Pollees were split along partisan and gender lines, with 90 percent of Republicans backing MacArthur and 87 percent of Democrats favoring Kim. Women preferred Kim by 13 points and men favored MacArthur by 16 points. Andy Kim won the election in a nail-biter. He was declared the winner eight days after the election, with fewer than a 4,000-voter margin over MacArthur.

To learn more about the poll results, visit: tinyurl.com/polling-results-2018.
Watch videos about the polls on our [YouTube channel](#).

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2018 New Jersey Congressional District 2 Debate

The Hughes Center hosted the 2018 New Jersey Congressional District 2 Debate from 6 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2018. Democrat Jeff Van Drew and Republican Seth Grossman squared off on the stage of the Campus Center Theatre on Stockton's Galloway campus. The event was open to the public, and was broadcast live by SNJ Today on WACP channel 4. In addition to the SNJ Today broadcast, the debate was livestreamed and is available for viewing on the websites of Stockton University and The Press of Atlantic City.

Van Drew and Grossman were fighting for the seat being vacated by incumbent Republican Frank LoBiondo, who retired after 24 years in Congress. The candidates faced questions from panelists Dr. Claire Abernathy, assistant professor of Political Science, and Buzz Keough, managing editor of

The Press of Atlantic City, on a variety of topical issues, including immigration, gun control, and the South Jersey economy. Grossman affirmed his support for President Trump's policies of keeping production by American companies domestic, thereby preserving full-time employment to many Americans. "I support President Trump to keep good-paying full-time jobs and full employment here in America," said Grossman. Van Drew stressed the importance of bipartisan cooperation in legislation that is beneficial to everyone.



"There used to be a time where great leaders understood that there are good people on both sides of the aisle and we shouldn't hate and we shouldn't just go after each other constantly," Van Drew said.

The debate drew an overflow crowd and extensive media attention. The Hughes Center was grateful for support from the office of Event Services, University Relations and Marketing, and Stockton's Police Department to make the debate such a success.

Click [here](#) to watch the debate.

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Hughes Center Hosts Esports Summit



The potential for Atlantic City to become the East Coast's hub for esports was discussed at a Thought Leaders Summit on Esports hosted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University at the new Stockton Atlantic City campus on Oct. 18.

More than 70 representatives from esports, government and businesses attended the summit to discuss how esports could benefit the city, as well as the potential challenges that might arise. The event was co-hosted by Porzio Governmental Affairs.

A panel of representatives from nine esports companies discussed the current state of the industry and what Atlantic City would have to do to become a part of the rapidly growing esports economy. Legislative and business representatives discussed the legal and economic potential and pitfalls.

Public Policy Panelists were: James E. Johnson, Special Counsel to Gov. Phil Murphy on Atlantic City; Braxton Plummer, Senior Advisor, N.J. Department of Community Affairs; Marshall Spevak, Deputy Executive Director, Casino Reinvestment Development Authority; Lauren Moore, Executive Director, Atlantic County Economic Alliance; and Joseph Kelly, President, Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce. Barbara DeMarco of Porzio Governmental Affairs, a consultant to Continent 8 Technologies, moderated.

Esports Panelists were: John Fazio of Nerd Street Gamers; Ari Fox of Casino/eSports Conference; Anthony Gaud of INGAME ESPORTS; Blaine Graboyes of GameCo; Bai Ng of Neomancer; Seth Schorr from Fifth Street Gaming and a consultant to Ocean Resort and Casino; Matty Kirsch from UMW; Joe Kurts, an eSports Marketing Executive; Dana Kawar and Hector Rosario from Flipside Pro eSports Team; Mike Dalton from Unikrn; and via Zoom Ian Smith, eSports Integrity Commissioner and Gregg Zinone of 514 eSports. Angela Bernhard Thomas of INGMAE ESPORTS, a consultant to MEET AC, moderated the panel.

Smaller panel discussions addressed Technology, Infrastructure and Labor Needs; Economic Development Past, Present and Future; Community Engagement and Esports; Safety and Security;

Education and Workforce Development; and Licensing, Legislation and Regulation.

The summit is part of a new initiative by the Hughes Center to study and provide insight into the esports industry, its potential for economic development in Atlantic City, and policy-related issues. Michael Klein, interim executive director of the Hughes Center, will issue a briefing paper on the results of the summit.

View a photo gallery of the event on [Flickr](#).

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Activities by members of the Hughes Center

The Hughes Center was an active participant in various public policy outlets in 2018, presenting at prestigious conferences and being recognized for its publications and analysis.

The Hughes Center received recognition in the media. Senior Research Associate at the Hughes Center John Froomjian was named in a list of New Jersey's top pollsters and academics by *InsiderNJ*, while Carl Golden, Senior Contributing Analyst at the Hughes Center, was ranked #32 on the *InsiderNJ*'s list of the top 100 policy influencers. Carl's work is syndicated through several national outlets.

The results of the Stockton Polling Institute's polls on the 2018 midterm elections and our analyses of the issues gained extensive media attention. Interim Executive Director Dr. Klein was quoted in news outlets such as CNN, *the Washington Examiner*, *The Star-Ledger*, *WHYY*, *Politico NJ*, *NJ Spotlight*, *the North Jersey Record* and *the Press of Atlantic City*.

On September 25, Dr. Klein was a speaker at the 15th International Conference on Higher Education Reform at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. The talk was titled *Public-Private Partnerships: Community Engagement Through Economic Development*. On November 8, Dr. Klein attended the 64th Annual Conference of the Education Law Association in Cleveland, OH, and presented *Student Athletics After Murphy v. NCAA*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing sports wagering nationwide.



At the end of the month, Dr. Klein maintained his busy schedule by attending the Nov. 30 symposium -- *Debt, Degrees, and Democracy: A Critical Look at the Value of College Completion*, which was held in Newton, MA. The event was co-hosted by the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy at Boston College Law School and the National Consumer Law Center. The title of Dr. Klein's presentation was "The Best Form of Financial Aid is Low Tuition": Entwining State Funding, Tuition, Student Debt, and Completion in the State of Washington. Dr. Klein then traveled to England, where on December 3 he presented "*Creative Construction*": *A New Theory of Entrepreneurial Universities* at the Oxford Symposium on the Finance, Law, and Economics of Education at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford.

Four Stockton students, with support from Associate Professor of Political Science Michael Rodriguez and the Hughes Center, teamed up to participate in the Yale Undergraduate International Policy Competition on Oct. 13 and 14. Stockton's team of Sarah Buffaloboy, Bryan Gonzalez-Meja, Jay Rehanij, and Sabrina Varga were among 350 undergraduate students from 46 institutions who devised policy solutions to territorial disputes in the South China Sea. After learning of the topic from keynote speaker Dr. Michael Chase, senior political scientist at the RAND



Sarah Buffaloboy and Sabrina Varga listen to a presentation during the opening ceremony of Yale International Policy Competition on Oct. 13, 2018.

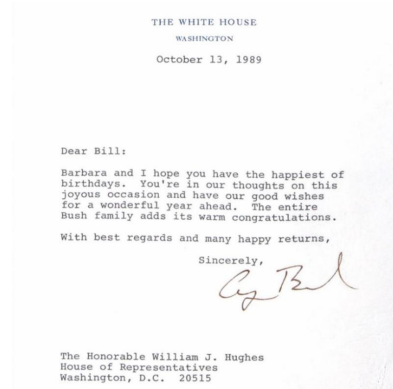
Corporation, students had 11 hours to address subtopics including conflict resolution and security, trade and economics, and global health and medicine. Fifteen judges from think tanks, Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, and the Jackson World Fellows' program evaluated the teams' policy proposals. Judges included Dongyoun Cho, an army major in the South Korean Ministry of National Defense; Lindsey W. Ford, director of Political-Security Affairs for the Asia Society Policy Institute; and Christian N. Ciobanu, the UN representative of PEAC Institute. The Hughes Center was proud to sponsor Sarah, Bryan, Jay, and Sabrina's participation.

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Ambassador Hughes Remembers Former President George H. W. Bush

Following the passing of former President George H.W. Bush on Nov. 30, 2018, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University asked Ambassador Hughes to reflect on his experiences serving in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 41st president's term in office.

"I have so many fond memories of my service with the first President Bush," Hughes said. "He was above all a lovely human being, which was evident throughout his many careers in public life. When he served in the House, he loved our gym, and it was not unusual for him during his presidency to show up and greet his former colleagues at least once a year," Hughes recalled. Photographs of Hughes and Bush as well as correspondence are among more than 200 pieces of memorabilia displayed in the Hughes Center. Below are Hughes' reflections paired with corresponding images and letters.



The above image of William Hughes with his wife, Nancy, far left and far right, with George and Barbara Bush, was sent to William Hughes on Oct. 13, 1989 along with birthday wishes from the president.



Congressman Hughes and President Bush shake hands in this personally signed image from President Bush.



Ambassador Hughes writes, "Among my memorabilia at the Hughes Center for Public Policy is a display of correspondence with the President right before the Persian Gulf War. When he appeared for the State of the Union address that year [1991], I was seated on the aisle near the rear of the Chamber. After his address, he stopped to ask me to help him free up from Committee a Resolution of support for our invasion. It was very controversial at first, and I generally supported his foreign policy initiatives. Part of the problem was he refused to release correspondence he had had with Saddam Hussein. Enough time had passed, but he would not make it public. I said, 'Mr. President releasing the letter would help a lot.' He thanked me for the suggestion. The next day I received a copy of the correspondence along with his personal note of handwritten thanks across the top."

The letter from Bush to Saddam Hussein is displayed prominently in the Hughes Center. In closing, Hughes added that George Bush "was one of our true Patriots!"

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Hughes Center Scholarship for Washington Internship Program

Stockton University has always provided unique opportunities to students that help them succeed in their future careers. One example is Stockton's Washington Internship Program. It is an intensive academic and career-building experience in which Stockton students live, work, and study in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region for a semester. The cost of a Washington internship is generally comparable to a student's expenses while taking classes on Stockton's campus.



Each semester the Hughes Center provides \$1,000 to one student who participates in the program. The most recent recipient of the award is Jake Levitz, from Somers Point, New Jersey, who has lived in and around Atlantic City all his life. Jake graduated from Mainland Regional High school in 2014. He is currently working at Zcommunications in Washington, D.C., for an exceptional woman named Rise Birnbaum. He is earning a degree in Communications on a general media studies track along with minors in both political science and writing. Jake is the first member in his family to go to college, and the Hughes Center is proud to support him as he pursues his dreams.

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Tell us what you think

Take a brief [survey](#) about the Hughes Center newsletter.



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