

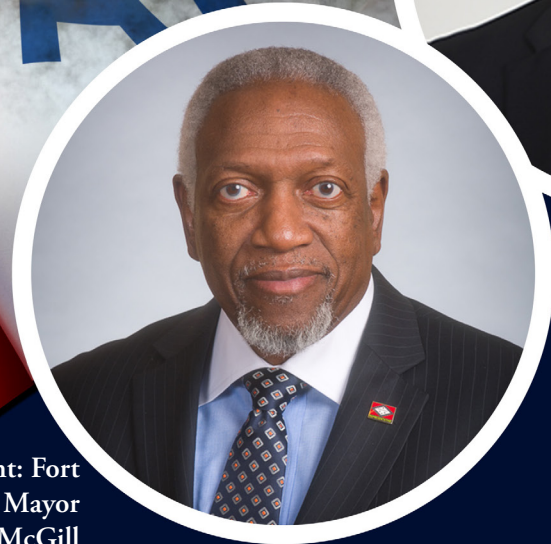
Hosted virtually by UAFS

# 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Arkansas Political Association

TO REGISTER



Right: Fort  
Smith Mayor  
George McGill



Above: Dr.  
James Thurber



9 a.m. to 7 p.m. • FRIDAY, FEB. 26

Arkansas political scientists, political science students, and political aficionados will meet to explore core issues affecting not only local, state, federal, and international politics, but also the field of political science. Panel discussions, research presentations, guest speaker Fort Smith Mayor George McGill, and keynote speaker Dr. James Thurber, distinguished professor of government and founder of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, will make up this day-long virtual conference.

This annual conference is hosted virtually by the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Dr. Terisa Riley, UAFS chancellor, looks forward to giving participants a warm welcome on behalf of the UAFS campus.

For more information contact Dr. Williams Yamkam, the conference's program chair, at [Williams.Yamkam@uafs.edu](mailto:Williams.Yamkam@uafs.edu) or 479-788-7981.

**UAFS** UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
FORT SMITH



**Schedule of Events**  
**Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Political Science Association**

University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

**Virtual Conference**

**February 25-26, 2021**

**Theme: An Unnatural State of Affairs:  
Governing in Uncertain Times**

**Asynchronous Online Business Meeting**

The ArkPSA Business Meeting will be conducted online asynchronously through the association's web site. An information video from ArkPSA President Karen Sebold (laying out new business and other items from the Executive Committee meeting) and a form to vote on board vacancies shall be online starting on the morning of Feb. 26. The voting form will be emailed by Matt Evans to prevent spammers on the secret ballot.

The video from Sebold will be available at the following URL:

<https://www.arkpsa.org/45th-annual-meeting/48th-annualmeeting-feb-26-27-2020/>

Members shall have until Sunday, Feb. 28 at 11:59 pm to vote on open offices and board members. Any questions about the business meeting should be directed to Karen Sebold ([ksebold@uark.edu](mailto:ksebold@uark.edu)) or Matt Evans ([mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu)).



**Thursday  
February 25  
2021**

**3:45 - 5 p.m.**

**Virtual ArkPSA Executive Committee Meeting**

**5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

**Experiential Learning in Political Science: A Pandemic Roundtable**

**Chair**

Matt Evans • [mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu)

*Northwest Arkansas Community College*

**Participants**

Mark Elrod • [melrod@uca.edu](mailto:melrod@uca.edu)

*University of Central Arkansas*

Rebecca Glazer • [raglazier@ualr.edu](mailto:raglazier@ualr.edu)

*University of Arkansas-Little Rock*

Hans Hacker • [hhacker@astate.edu](mailto:hhacker@astate.edu)

*Arkansas State University*

Joe Howard • [jhoward@uca.edu](mailto:jhoward@uca.edu)

*University of Central Arkansas*

Mike Rogers • [mrogers6@atu.edu](mailto:mrogers6@atu.edu)

*Arkansas Tech University*

Patrick Stewart • [pastewar@uark.edu](mailto:pastewar@uark.edu)

*University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*

Jaeyun Sung • [Jaeyun.sung@lyon.edu](mailto:Jaeyun.sung@lyon.edu)

*Lyon College*

Cameron Wimpy • [cwimpy@astate.edu](mailto:cwimpy@astate.edu)

*Arkansas State University*



**Friday  
February 26  
2021**

**9 - 9:05 a.m.**

**Welcome from The University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**

**Dr. Terisa C. Riley**

*UAFS Chancellor*

*Dr. Terisa C. Riley was named chancellor of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith by University of Arkansas System President Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt April 16, 2019, and began her appointment on July 1, 2019.*

*In her first year as chancellor, Dr. Riley made strides toward advancing shared governance, inclusive practices, student support, and fiscal responsibility at UAFS. She founded the inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and Institutional Budget Council, implemented a system of open forum discussions to increase access and accountability, and charted the course toward an institution of excellence and access that welcomes all who call it home.*

*An experienced higher education administrator, Dr. Riley spent more than 25 years serving in virtually every facet of higher education, from academics to administration, before taking the helm at UAFS. She served as Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and University Administration at Texas A&M University - Kingsville. She has held positions as chief student affairs officer,*

*chief financial officer, chief administrator, and chief enrollment management officer. Dr. Riley values public universities' mission to provide excellent and affordable educational opportunities. She is deeply committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive campus environment where students and employees feel valued, welcomed, and supported.*



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*Dr. Riley prioritizes communication, transparency, and shared governance, and has collaborated with campus leaders and stakeholders to prepare and implement strategic plans to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Over her career she has optimized spending practices, executed more than \$250 million in construction and capital investment plans, and led universities to millions of dollars in savings through strategic investment in sustainable practices - bettering both the campuses she served and the planet.*

*She is dedicated to serving her community, currently serving on the board of directors of the Fort Smith Regional and Van Buren Chambers of Commerce, the Fort Smith United Way, and the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority; as a member of the University of Arkansas System Racial Equity Task Force, Fort Smith Regional Council, Lone Star Conference Chancellors and Presidents Board, Lone Star Conference Finance Committee, Arvest Bank Board and U.S. Marshalls Museum Board, and as chair of the University of Arkansas System Workday Steering Committee.*

*Dr. Riley earned her bachelor's degree in communication and a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and her doctoral degree from Saint Louis University in higher education administration and research methodology. She is also a graduate of the National Police Institute and the Governor's Executive Development Program at the University of Texas at Austin.*



**Friday  
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**9:15- 10:25 a.m.**

## **The Arkansas Election Roundtable**

### **Chair**

Andrew Dowdle • [adowdle@uark.edu](mailto:adowdle@uark.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*

### **Participants**

Hal Bass • [bassh@obu.edu](mailto:bassh@obu.edu)  
*Ouachita Baptist University*

John Davis • [davisjc@uamont.edu](mailto:davisjc@uamont.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Monticello*

Heather Yates • [hyates@uca.edu](mailto:hyates@uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

**10:25 - 11:30 a.m.**

## **American Government and Politics Panel**

### **Chair/Discussant**

Don Gooch • [goochdm@sfasu.edu](mailto:goochdm@sfasu.edu)  
*Stephen F. Austin State University*

### **“Election Administration and UOCAVA Voting: The State and New Metrics”**

Murat Abus • [murat.abus@smail.astate.edu](mailto:murat.abus@smail.astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*

### **“Out With the Old, In With the Old? Term Limits and Legislative Partisanship”**

Jordan Butcher • [jbutcher@astate.edu](mailto:jbutcher@astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*

### **“Arkansas Federal Flood Insurance and Moral Hazard”**

Eric Baker • [Eric.baker@uafs.edu](mailto:Eric.baker@uafs.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Fort Smith*

### **Iowa’s White-Lash? An Empirical Inquiry in Demographic Change and Vote Share in the 2016 Presidential Election**

Joel R. Deere • [joel.deere@smail.astate.edu](mailto:joel.deere@smail.astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*



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**11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Political Theory Roundtable on Thomas West's *The Political Theory of the American Founding: Natural Rights, Public Policy, and the Moral Conditions of Freedom* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2017)**

**Chair**

Steven Thomason • [thomasons@obu.edu](mailto:thomasons@obu.edu)  
*Ouachita Baptist University*

**Participants**

Clay Arnold • [carnold@uca.edu](mailto:carnold@uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

Matt Evans • [mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu)  
*Northwest Arkansas Community College*

Hans Hacker • [hhacker@astate.edu](mailto:hhacker@astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*

Mike Rogers • [mrogers6@atu.edu](mailto:mrogers6@atu.edu)  
*Arkansas Tech University*

Carol Strong • [strong@uamont.edu](mailto:strong@uamont.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Monticello*

Mary Sullivan • [marys@uca.edu](mailto:marys@uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*



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**12: 35 – 1:05 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker**

**Mayor George McGill**

*City of Fort Smith, Arkansas*

*George McGill was elected Mayor of Fort Smith in August of 2018. As the first African American to have ever been elected as Fort Smith Mayor, McGill is a trailblazer who has used his dedication to public service to advance the common good at the federal, state, and local levels. Prior to serving as Mayor, McGill represented Fort Smith, his hometown, in the Arkansas House of Representatives for three terms. As the State Representative for District 78, McGill earned the respect of his legislative peers on both sides of the political aisle and was elected to key leadership positions even though he was in the legislative minority.*

*Deputy Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Arkansas House of Representatives; Chair of the Aging, Children, Youth Legislative & Military Affairs Committee; and Co-Chair of the Policy-Making Subcommittee for the Legislative Governing Board of the Council of State Governments are some of the leadership positions that allowed McGill to focus on issues that he deeply cares for, such as hunger relief, higher education, the protection of the elderly, children and families, and veterans, etc.*

*As State Representative, McGill embraced a servant leadership approach that prompted him to constantly stay connected to his constituents to better serve them. To that end, he innovated by opening a local office for constituent services, which is rarely done in part-time legislatures such as the Arkansas legislature.*

*Ever so gung-ho about promoting his hometown, McGill spared no effort or time to help secure more than one million Dollars for*





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*the Fort Smith-based U.S. Marshals Museum. Besides, among his other numerous services rendered to his native Fort Smith, McGill (has) served as Chair of the Fort Smith Planning Commission, as a member of the River Front Task Force Committee, as a board member of the Fort Smith Boys and Girls Club, as a board member of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, as a board member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, as a Deacon at King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church.*

*McGill's leadership experience as a U.S. army veteran, as a former small business owner, and as a community leader has been recognized through the many awards that he has received, such as The National Guard Association of Arkansas Joseph T. Robinson Award, the Arkansas Municipal League Distinguished Legislator Award in 2013, 2015, and 2017, the UA Fayetteville School of Business Trailblazer Award, the Spirit of Frontier Award - City of Fort Smith, the Outstanding Community Service Award - Lincoln Alumni Association, the invitation to be a Keynote Speaker at the 30th Anniversary for the Fall of the Berlin Wall in Berlin, Germany, and his election as Best of the Best Elected Officials by the Southwest Times Record- his hometown newspaper.*

*McGill earned his Bachelor of Science in education and a Master in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas.*



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**1:15 - 2:25 p.m.**

**Public Administration and Public Policy, Political Theory concurrent sessions**

**Public Administration and Public Policy Panel**

**Chair**

David Harding • [drharding@astate.edu](mailto:drharding@astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*

**Discussant**

Kisha A. Hardwick • [khardwick1@uca.edu](mailto:khardwick1@uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

**“On the Future of Fracking; Elite vs. Public Opinion on Hydraulic Fracturing in Oregon and Arkansas”**

Ben Galloway • [bxg014@uark.edu](mailto:bxg014@uark.edu)  
*University of Arkansas*

Geoboo Song • [gsong@uark.edu](mailto:gsong@uark.edu)  
*University of Arkansas*

Mike Jones • [michael.jones@oregonstate.edu](mailto:michael.jones@oregonstate.edu)  
*Oregon State University*

Chad Zanocco • [czanocco@stanford.edu](mailto:czanocco@stanford.edu)  
*Stanford University*

**“An Examination of Arkansas Public Water Authorities”**

Amber Overholser • [amberoverholser@saumag.edu](mailto:amberoverholser@saumag.edu)  
*Southern Arkansas University*

Prathima Regula, MPA • [Prathimaregula56@gmail.com](mailto:Prathimaregula56@gmail.com)  
*Southern Arkansas University*

**“What Was That Promise That You Made? Citizen Initiated Contact and Administrative Response”**

William P. McLean • [wmclean@astate.edu](mailto:wmclean@astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*

Cameron C. Wimpy • [cwimpy@astate.edu](mailto:cwimpy@astate.edu)  
*Arkansas State University*



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## **Political Theory Panel**

### **Chair/Discussant**

Clay Arnold • [carnold@uca.edu](mailto:carnold@uca.edu)

*University of Central Arkansas*

### **“Why Rahel Matters: Hannah Arendt and German Romanticism”**

Kimberly Maslin • [maslin@hendrix.edu](mailto:maslin@hendrix.edu)

*Hendrix College*

### **“Dark Visions of Bright Meetings: Reading Anarchism through Haraway”**

Matt Evans • [mevans8@nwacc.edu](mailto:mevans8@nwacc.edu)

*Northwest Arkansas Community College*

**2:35 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Undergraduate Student Research, three concurrent sessions**

## **UG Panel #1: Comparative Politics**

### **Chair/Discussant**

Gizachew Tiruneh • [gtiruneh@uca.edu](mailto:gtiruneh@uca.edu)

*University of Central Arkansas*

### **“Protecting the Urban Future: A Discourse on Fragility and Resiliency in Cities”**

Kristen Towery • [kristen.towery@lyon.edu](mailto:kristen.towery@lyon.edu)

*Lyon College*

### **“Confucianism and Authoritarianism in East and Southeast Asia”**

Kirby Nix • [knix4@atu.edu](mailto:knix4@atu.edu)

*Arkansas Tech University*

### **“Transitional Justice and the Influence of Gender”**

Taylor Toombs • [taylor.toombs99@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.toombs99@gmail.com)

*University of Arkansas-Little Rock*



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## **UG Panel #2: Public Administration**

### **Chair/Discussant**

Eric Baker • [Eric.baker@uafs.edu](mailto:Eric.baker@uafs.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Fort Smith*

### **“The Limits of Civic Empowerment: An Analysis of Participatory Budgeting in the United States”**

Vito Whitmore • [vwhitmore1@cub.uca.edu](mailto:vwhitmore1@cub.uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

### **“Using Initiatives at the Local Level: Arkansan Populism”**

Lauren McHenry • [lmchenry2@cub.uca.edu](mailto:lmchenry2@cub.uca.edu) [lblainemch@gmail.com](mailto:lblainemch@gmail.com)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

### **“Taking Care of Our Own: Assessing Faculty Morale and Organizational Culture at the University of Central Arkansas”**

Margaret Hacker • [mhacker1@cub.uca.edu](mailto:mhacker1@cub.uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

### **“An Unnatural State of Affairs: Governing in Uncertain Times”**

Logan Hubberd • [logan.hubberd@lyon.edu](mailto:logan.hubberd@lyon.edu)  
*Lyon College*

## **UG Panel#3: American Politics**

### **Chair/Discussant**

Janine Parry • [parry@uark.edu](mailto:parry@uark.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*

### **“Kurzarbeit vs. Furlough: The United States Economy Meets German Efficiency”**

Matthew Law • [mLaw1@cub.uca.edu](mailto:mLaw1@cub.uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

### **“Accessibility and Clarity of Campaign Finance Disclosure Databases in U.S. Cities.”**

Ethan Bridgforth • [embridgfh@uark.edu](mailto:embridgfh@uark.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*



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**“Party-Switching: Independent Voter Volatility in U.S. Presidential Elections”**

Taylor Fitterling • [taylor.fitterling@lyon.edu](mailto:taylor.fitterling@lyon.edu)  
*Lyon College*

**3:55 - 5:15 p.m.**

**Politics and Gender Roundtable: “The Dynamics of Gender and Race in the 2020 Presidential Election”**

**Chair**

Heather E. Yates • [hyates@uca.edu](mailto:hyates@uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

**Participants**

Kim Hoffman • [khoffman@uca.edu](mailto:khoffman@uca.edu)  
*University of Central Arkansas*

Kim Maslin • [maslin@hendrix.edu](mailto:maslin@hendrix.edu)  
*Hendrix College*

Karen Sebold • [ksebold@uark.edu](mailto:ksebold@uark.edu)  
*University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*

Nicole Foster Shoaf • [shoaf-n@mssu.edu](mailto:shoaf-n@mssu.edu)  
*Missouri Southern State University*



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**5:45 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Keynote Speaker**

**“President Biden and Congress: Unity, Bipartisanship or Polarization and Gridlock?”**

**James A. Thurber**

American University

[thurber@american.edu](mailto:thurber@american.edu)

*Dr. James A. Thurber is a Distinguished Professor of Government and Founder (1979) and Founder and Former Director (1979-2016) of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies and Affiliate Distinguished Professor of Public Administration and Policy at American University, Washington, D.C. He is author of numerous books and more than 90 articles and chapters on Congress, interest groups and lobbying, and campaigns and elections.*

*During his tenure at American University, Dr. Thurber served as the principle investigator of a seven-year study of campaign conduct supported by a Pew Charitable Trusts grant and as principle investigator of a four-year study analyzing lobbying and ethics for the Committee for Economic Development. He founded the biannual Campaign Management Institute, the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, and annual European Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute in Brussels. Since 1976, he has worked for several members of the U.S. Congress on congressional reorganization, ethics, and lobbying reform.*

*Dr. Thurber was honored as the American University Scholar/Teacher of the Year in 1996 and received the 2010 Walter Beach Pi Sigma Alpha American Political Science Association award for his work combining applied and academic research. He is also a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and a member of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Lobbying Law Reform. Dr. Thurber was an American Political Science*



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*Association Congressional Fellow and is currently on its Executive Board. He was awarded the Senator Mark O. Hatfield Annual Award for Applied Public Policy Research. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. He has lectured at over 100 universities in the U.S. and in 40 countries.*

*Dr. Thurber earned a BS in political science from the University of Oregon and a PhD in political science from Indiana University.*

