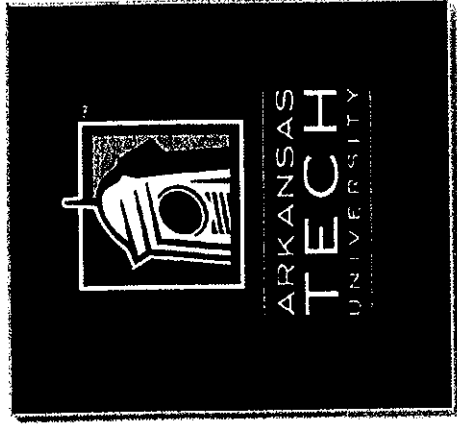


**44th Annual Meetings
of the
Arkansas Political
Science Association**



March 3rd – March 4th, 2017

2017 Conference Committee

Program Chair
Christopher Housenick
Arkansas Tech University
chousenick@atu.edu

Section Chairs
American Government & Politics
Heather Yates
University of Central Arkansas
hyates@uca.edu

Arkansas Politics & State Politics
Michael Rogers
Arkansas Tech University
mrogers6@atu.edu

International Relations & Comparative Politics
Matthew Evans
Northwest Arkansas Community College
mevans8@nwacc.edu

Political Theory
Michael Rogers
Arkansas Tech University
mrogers6@atu.edu

Public Administration & Public Policy
Brendan Toner
Arkansas Tech University
btoner@atu.edu

Graduate & Undergraduate Student Research
Jaeyun Sung
Lyon College
jaeyun.sung@lyon.edu

Arkansas Political Science Association

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maslin@hendrix.edu

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sbreezeel@harding.edu

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Carol Strong (UA-Monticello)
strong@uamont.edu

Secretary/Treasurer
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mrogers6@atu.edu

Journal Editor
Joseph Howard (UCA)
jhoward@uca.edu

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chousenick@atu.edu

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hhacker@astate.edu

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ejwiebelhaus@ualr.edu

2016-2018 term
Karen Sebold (UA-Fayetteville)
ksebold@uark.edu

2016-2018 term
Mary Beth Sullivan (UCA)
marys@uca.edu

Friday, March 3rd

Rothwell Hall, ATU Campus

Session #1 – 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Rothwell 321: American Politics Panel

Chair: Steven Breezeel, Harding University

Discussant: Kiril Kolev, Hendrix College

“Issues in Southern Politics: Race, Economics, and Religion.”

– Seth McKee, Texas Tech University

“The Primary Issue: How Primary Type Polarized a Nation.”

– Kiril Kolev, Hendrix College

– Peter Butler, Hendrix College

“What Inherent Rights?”

– Tom McInnis, University of Central Arkansas

“They Wanted a Tea Party and got a Dogfight: The Lack of GOP Discipline and the Nomination of Donald Trump.”

– Heather Yates, University of Central Arkansas

– Gary Wekkin, University of Central Arkansas

Rothwell 312: International Relations & Comparative Politics

Chair & Discussant: Matt Evans, Northwest Arkansas Community College

“Realism Since 9/11: U. S. Foreign Policy Toward India”

– Kevin Brennan, Ouachita Baptist University

“The Syrian Civil War and Diaspora Transitional Justice Mobilization”

– Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“Signing Free Agents or Extending Contracts: The Effects of Partisan Dealignment on Non- Left/Right Policy Responsiveness.”

– Christopher J. Williams Assistant Professor

Friday, March 3rd

Rothwell Hall, ATU Campus

Session #1 – 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Rothwell 307: Undergraduate Panel on Religion and Politics

Chair & Discussant: Carol Strong, University of Arkansas Monticello

“Religion or Ideology? The Voting Preferences of Little Rock Churchgoers.”

– Charlana Benefiel, University of Arkansas Little Rock

“Faith in Action: A Look into Little Rock’s Religious Mobilization.”

– Brian Gregory, University of Arkansas Little Rock

“The Impact of Race and Religious Tradition on Political Activity and Issue Importance.”

– Faith Thomas, University of Arkansas Little Rock

“Quality of Life and Communal Violence: Assessing Causes and Comparing Saliency.”

– Bradford Harper, Hendrix College

“Church Attendance, Politics, and Social Engagement in the Catholic and Black Protestant Traditions.”

– Paola Cavallari, University of Arkansas Little Rock

Rothwell 306: Undergraduate Panel on Campaigns and Political Media

Chair & Discussant: Karen Sebold, University of Arkansas

“News That (Still) Matters: The Millennials Edition.”

– Matthew Ramirez, Hendrix College

“Showing their Softer Side: Analyzing the Soft Media Strategies of Statewide Campaigns in Texas and Arkansas.”

– Mark Hickey, Hendrix College

“Advertising Saturation in Political Campaigns: An Analysis of Negative Advertising and Voter Turnout in the 2014 Elections.”

– Sami Sexton, Hendrix College

“Amped Up, Turning Out: Polarization’s Impact on Voter Turnout.”

– Barrett Goodwin, Hendrix College

“The Effects of the Electoral College on Presidential Candidates’ Campaigns.”

– Michaela West, Lyon College

Friday, March 3rd
Rothwell Hall, ATU Campus
Session #2 – 2:45 PM to 4:15 PM

Rothwell 321: Public Administration Panel

Chair & Discussant: Clay Arnold, University of Central Arkansas

“The Diffusion of Veterans Treatment Courts: A Prediction of Future Adoption for the Late Majority and Laggard States”

- Eric Button, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville
- William Schreckhise, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

“Fantasy vs. Reality: Examining State Legislation Involving Fantasy Sports”

- Joshua Mitchell, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville
- Brendan Toner, Arkansas Tech University

“How Pedagogy and Sequencing Affect Civic Literacy and Engagement: A

Study of Political Science General Education Courses”

- Donald Gooch, Stephen F. Austin University
- Michael Rogers, Arkansas Tech University

“Freight and Logistics in the Fort Smith Metropolitan Area: Implications for Public Policy”

- Michael Yoder, University of Central Arkansas

Rothwell 312: American Politics Roundtable: “The Influences and Consequences of Gender and Race in the 2016 Presidential Campaign.”

Chair & Discussant: Heather E. Yates, University of Central Arkansas

Roundtable Members:

- Monika Alston-Miller, University of Central Arkansas
- Karen Sebold, University of Arkansas
- Nicole Shoaf, Missouri Southern State University

Friday, March 3rd
Rothwell Hall, ATU Campus
Session #2 – 2:45 PM to 4:15 PM

Rothwell 307: Undergraduate Panel on Public Policy: Education and the Economy

Chair & Discussant: Tucker Staley, University of Central Arkansas

“Confined Education: Reforming the Education in Juvenile Detention Centers in Arkansas.”

- Anna Walker, Hendrix College

“Reform of the International Monetary System: Analyzing Chartalism’s Contributions and the Resulting Policy Implications.”

- Chitrag Lala, Hendrix College

“Quality of Life and Communal Violence: Assessing Causes and Comparing Saliences”

- Bradford Harper, Hendrix College

Friday, March 3rd: Post-Panel Events

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM

ARK PSA Business Meeting
Rothwell Hall, Room 321

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Break for Moving to
Lake Point Conference Center

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Reception

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dinner

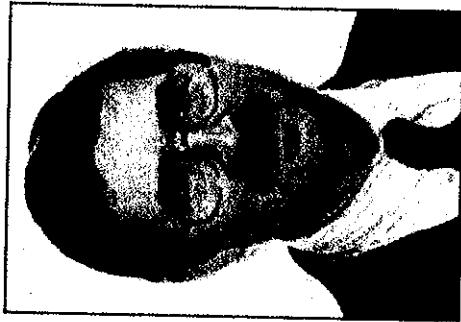
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Guest Speaker Dr. Michael Malbin

Saturday Guest Speaker

Dr. Michael Malbin

State University of New York - Albany



One consistent thread in Dr. Malbin's research interests has been on the dynamics of institutional change and reform. To some extent, that interest grew serendipitously: he had the professional good luck to land in Washington, with new Ph.D. in hand (Cornell, 1973), just as the Watergate hearings were being played out on Capitol Hill. As a result, his earlier publications focused on congressional reform, presidential nomination reform and congressional staffing – along with what became his abiding interest in the role of money in politics.

Dr. Malbin has been a Professor of Political Science at the University at Albany since 1990, having arrived after spending seventeen years in Washington as a reporter, think tank scholar and government appointee (in both the legislative and executive branches).

From 1990-97, Malbin was director of the Center for Legislative Studies at SUNY's Rockefeller Institute, where he was the principal investigator for Presidential-Congressional Relations for a collaborative, multi-university project. Since 1999, he has been the co-founder and executive director of The Campaign Finance Institute, a nonpartisan research institution in Washington D.C. Some of his recent work on federal, state (and occasionally local) elections has been about participation by small donors and about political party networks and interest groups in an era of unlimited independent spending.

His books include three that examine how laws labeled as reforms work out in practice. These include:

1. *The Day after Reform: Sobering Campaign Finance Lessons from the American States* (co-authored by Thomas L. Gais, 1998)
2. *The Election after Reform: Money, Politics and the Life after Reform: When the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act Meets Politics* (editor and co-author, 2003)
3. *Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act* (editor and co-author, 2005)

He is also co-author with Norman J. Ornstein and Thomas E. Mann of the award-winning biennial book, *Vital Statistics on Congress*.

Saturday, March 4th

Lake Point Conference Center

Session #3 – 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Training Room C: Comparative Politics Panel

Chair & Discussant: Gizachew Tiruneh, University of Central Arkansas

“Capitalism, Cosmopolitanism, and Common Sense: A Critical Approach to World Politics in the Era of Brexit and Trump”

– Alan Elrod, Arkansas State University – Beebe

“Private Campaign Funding and Electoral Turnout: An Empirical Investigation of Voter Disillusionment”

– Kiril Kolev, Hendrix College

– Anushah Jiwani, Hendrix College

“Hawks or Doves? An Analysis of College Student Attitudes Regarding U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post-9/11 Period”

– Dr. Mark Elrod, University of Central Arkansas

– Dr. Mark Mullenbach, University of Central Arkansas

Training Room B: Undergraduate Panel on Democracy and Social Movements

Chair & Discussant: Christopher J. Williams, University of Arkansas – Little Rock

“Workers of the World, Unite’ at the Polls: Voter Turnout in Emerging Democracies.”

– Lauren Mahaney, Hendrix College

“The American Influence on Democratization”

– Hannah Templin, Lyon College

“Regionalism, Human Rights, and International Society: the Emergence of Regional Pluralism.”

– Andrew McWard, Hendrix College

“Analyzing the Impact of Social and Economic Development on Regular Immigration Policies.”

– Isaac Filat, Hendrix College

Executive Boardroom: Political Theory Roundtable – The Possibility of Democracy in Communicative Capitalism

Chair & Discussant: Matt Evans, Northwest Arkansas Community College

Roundtable Participants:

– Dr. Clay Arnold, University of Central Arkansas

– Dr. Matt Evans, Northwest Arkansas Community College

– Dr. Michael T. Rogers, Arkansas Tech University

– Dr. Mary Beth Sullivan, University of Central Arkansas

Saturday, March 4th
Lake Point Conference Center
Session #4 – 10:15 AM to 11:45 AM

Training Room C: Arkansas Politics Roundtable: “The 2016 Elections in Arkansas: What Happened and What is Next?”

Chair & Discussant: Andrew Dowdle, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

Roundtable Members:

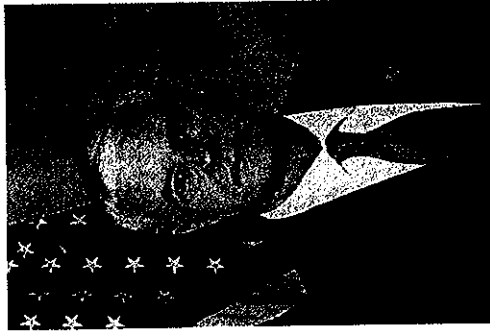
- Jay Barth, Hendrix College
- Hal Bass, Ouachita Baptist University
- John Davis, University of Arkansas at Monticello
- Joe Giammo, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Karen Sebold, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

Training Room B: Undergraduate Panel on Racial Diversity in State Government

Chair & Discussant: Dr. Brendan Toner, Arkansas Tech University

- “Influences on Local Government: An Analysis of Racial Diversity and Forms of Municipal Government.”
- Joshua Copeland, Hendrix College
- “The Effect of Judicial Race on Sentencing Behavior in the Criminal Justice System.”
- Hannah Smithe, Lyon College
- “State Judiciary Elections and Judicial Shopping: Are Judicial Candidates in Arkansas Raising More Money from Lawyers Looking for Friendly Courtrooms?”
- Taylor Pray, University of Arkansas
- “The Influence of Judicial Campaign Funding Sources on Justices’ Rulings in Arkansas and Alabama in 2015.”
- Jaden Atkins, University of Arkansas
- “Race, Republicanism, and Realignment in Arkansas.”
- Danielle DeVore Casey, University of Central Arkansas

Saturday Guest Speaker
Congressman Stephen A. Womack



Stephen A. Womack is beginning his fourth term representing Arkansas’ 3rd Congressional District, which covers all of Pope, Marion, Boone, Carroll, Benton, and Washington Counties, and parts of Newton, Crawford, and Sebastian Counties. Within the House of Representatives, he currently serves on the House Appropriations and House Budget Committees.

Congressman Womack is a native of Russellville, Arkansas where he graduated high school in 1975. In 1979, he received his bachelor’s degree from Arkansas Tech University, and in the fall of 1979, Womack relocated to Rogers where he and his father established KURM Radio.

Mr. Womack was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Arkansas Army National Guard after his graduation. In the Army, the Congressman served in a variety of command and staff positions with the Arkansas Army National Guard—including platoon leader, troop commander, battalion commander, and regimental commander. In August of 1990, Womack accepted an assignment with the Army National Guard at the University of Arkansas and served as the executive officer of the U.S. Army ROTC program at the University of Arkansas until 1996. On October 31, 2009, he retired after over thirty years of service at the rank of Colonel.

On November 3, 1998, Steven Womack became Mayor Womack when he was elected Mayor of Rogers, AR, and held that office until his election to Congress in 2010.

More recently, he was inducted into the Arkansas Tech University Hall of Distinction as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2014.