

Politics & Media

Politicking in the Age of Instant News

March 17 & March 22, 2011
Younts Conference Center
Furman University

Presented by
The Riley Institute at Furman
and
The Department of Political Science



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Politicking in the Age of Instant News

Program

March 17, 2011

7 p.m.

Campaigning in 2010: The Media's View

Moderator: Mark Quinn, *Producer and Host,
SCETV's Big Picture*

Panelists: Andy Brack, *Publisher, statehousereport.com,
scclips.com, charlestoncurrents.com*

Carolyn Murray, *News Anchor, WCBD-TV*

Brad Warthen, *Blogger, bradwarthen.com and
director of communications, ADCO*

Chris Weston, *Managing Editor, Greenville News*

8 p.m.

Campaigning in 2010: The Politician's View

Moderator: Mark Quinn

Panelists: Bob Inglis, *former United States Representative*

Vincent Sheheen, *South Carolina State Senator*

9 p.m.

Reception

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March 22, 2011

7 p.m.

Is Deliberation Dead?

Tweeting the Constitution

Original vignettes by Furman professors
Danielle Vinson, John Barrington, and
Don Gordon

Director: Rhett Bryson, *Professor, Furman University
Theatre Arts Department*

Cast: Nigel Robertson, Gabrielle Komorowski,
Miller DeVenny, Joey Fuson, Charlotte Holt,
Thomas Hydrick, Mattson Smith, Scott Johnson

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Rod Smolla, *President, Furman University*

Panelists: Jessica Taylor, *Editor,
National Journal House Race Hotline*

Danielle Vinson, *Professor and Chair,
Political Science Department, Furman University*

Nu Wexler, *Communications Director,
U.S. House Budget Committee Democrats*

8 p.m.

The Presidential Bully Pulpit—
Is Anyone Listening?

Keynote speaker: Richard Benedetto, *former White House
Correspondent/Columnist and co-founder, USA Today*

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March 17, 2011



Andy Brack is publisher of three online news services: *Statehouse Report*, a weekly South Carolina legislative forecast and syndicated newspaper column; *Charleston Currents*, a twice-weekly Charleston newsletter; and *SC Clips*, a daily news digest. Brack serves as president and chair of the Center for a Better South, a non-partisan think tank. A graduate of Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Brack served in 2001 on the Southern Governors Association Research and Development Advisory Committee. A former United States Senate press secretary and reporter, he was a candidate for United States Congress in 2000. Brack lives with his wife and two daughters in Charleston, South Carolina.



Carolyn Murray has been at WCBD-TV since 2003. She began her broadcasting career working for various radio stations including WMGL-FM and WPAL-AM radio in Charleston. In 1989 she began working in television, first as news anchor and reporter at WCSC-TV for 12 years, and then moving to WBBM-TV in Chicago. Murray has earned many journalism awards including a 2000 Southeast Region Emmy Award for Best Newscast and Emmy nominations for reporting in 2001, 2006, and 2007. Her award-winning reporting has focused on stories of medical and health interest including battling cancer and parents struggling with autistic children. A frequent volunteer with organizations supporting early literacy and health and fitness, Murray is a marathoner and lives in Charleston with her spouse and daughter.



Mark Quinn has been working as a professional journalist for over 17 years, 14 of which have been spent in Columbia, South Carolina. For 11 years, he worked in various on-air capacities for one of the most successful NBC affiliates in the country, WIS-TV. Since November of 2007, he has worked for South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV). Among the highlights during his tenure with SCETV was his on-site coverage of both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions in the summer of 2008 and the statewide gubernatorial, congressional, and constitutional officer debates in 2010. Mark is the host of ETV and ETV Radio's weekly news and public affairs program, *The Big Picture* and *The Big Picture on the Radio*.



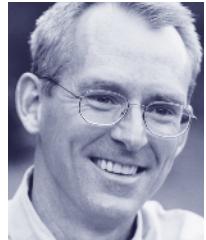
Brad Warthen is director of communications and public relations for ADCO, a full-service advertising and marketing agency in Columbia. For 12 years he was the vice president and editorial page editor at *The State* newspaper, where he worked for 22 years. Before that he spent a decade at *The Jackson Sun* and two years at the *Wichita Eagle*. A blogger since 2005, Warthen offers non-partisan commentary on state and national politics. He and his wife of 36 years have five children and four grandchildren.



Chris Weston is managing editor of *The Greenville News*. He is a member of the leadership team directing news coverage of the daily and Sunday print newspaper, digital journalism on GreenvilleOnline.com and TigersNow.com, as well as the work of community and niche publications. He previously worked as a political and government reporter in the state capital and in Washington and as an investigative reporter. Weston is a graduate of the University of South Carolina.

Politicking in the Age of Instant News

March 22, 2011



Bob Inglis, a graduate of Duke University and the University of Virginia School of Law, is currently a fellow at Harvard University's Institute of Politics. Formerly with the firm of Leatherwood Walker Todd and Mann, Inglis was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1993. Inglis represented the Fourth District of South Carolina from 1993–1998 and again from 2004–2010. While a member of Congress, Inglis served on many committees including the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Judiciary Committee of the Education and Workforce Committee, and the Science and Technology Committee. He served in leadership roles on the Research Subcommittee of the Science Committee, the Energy and Environment Subcommittee and the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus. Inglis and his wife Mary Anne have five children and reside in northern Greenville County.



Vincent Sheheen, South Carolina senator for the 27th District, serves on the committees for Agriculture and Natural Resources; Fish, Game and Forestry; the Judiciary; and Transportation. After graduating law school, he clerked for United States District Judge Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., taught as an adjunct professor at University of South Carolina School of Law, and served as the prosecutor for the City of Camden. Prior to serving in the South Carolina Senate, he served in the South Carolina House of Representatives and was named Legislator of the Year by the South Carolina Solicitor's Association. While in the House, Sheheen helped create a conservation land bank that has preserved thousands of acres of South Carolina. In 2010, Sheheen was the Democratic candidate for the South Carolina gubernatorial election. He is a graduate of Clemson University and University of South Carolina School of Law.



Rod Smolla, president of Furman University, is nationally recognized as a scholar, teacher, advocate, and writer and is one of America's foremost experts on issues relating to freedom of speech, academic freedom, and freedom of the press. A native of the Chicago area, he is a 1975 graduate of Yale University and graduated first in his class from Duke University Law School in 1978. Prior to coming to Furman, Smolla served three years as dean and Roy L. Steinheimer Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. He has also been dean and Allen Professor at the University of Richmond School of Law as well as director of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law at the College of William & Mary.



Jessica Taylor is the editor of *National Journal's* House Race Hotline, a comprehensive summary of news, polls and political data on all 435 Congressional races. She also writes a twice-monthly House-related column for *National Journal Daily* and is a regular contributor to NationalJournal.com and *National Journal* magazine. Before returning to National Journal in January 2011, Taylor was an assistant editor for POLITICO's 2010 page, where she reported on House, Senate and governors' races and managed their midterm website. From 2007 until 2009, Taylor was a staff writer and online producer for NationalJournal.com and the research director for *The Almanac of American Politics*. Taylor graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in political science from Furman University, where she was editor-in-chief of *The Paladin*, a member of the Riley Institute Advance Team, and was also inducted into Senior Order.

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Danielle Vinson is professor and chair of the Political Science Department at Furman whose academic interests are political communication and American political institutions. She has done research on how local media cover Congress, and she is currently studying how members of Congress use the national media to influence policy making. Vinson has had numerous articles published in professional journals and books on the media and Congress, political parties, and South Carolina politics. Vinson teaches courses in American Government, the United States Congress, Media and Politics, and the American Presidency. She frequently directs the Washington internship program. Vinson received her B.A. from Furman University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University.



Nu Wexler, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, has been active in political affairs in a variety of roles. From 2001–2003 he coordinated broadcast, print, and interactive media as deputy communications director for United States Senator Fritz Hollings. From 2003–2005 he was executive director and communications director of the South Carolina Democratic Party, during which time he coordinated statewide political campaigns. He has served as communications strategist and directed public affairs campaigns for several non-profit and corporate clients. Since June 2010, he has worked as communications director for the United States House of Representatives, previously for the House Education and Labor Committee and currently for the House Budget Committee Democrats.

Keynote Speaker



Richard Benedetto, professor of journalism and political science at American University, is a retired White House correspondent and columnist for *USA Today* and former political columnist for the Gannett News Service.

A founding member of *USA Today*, Benedetto wrote the paper's first Page One cover story.

For nearly forty years, Benedetto has reported on government and politics on the local, state, and national levels. He covered the presidencies of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. He also covered every presidential campaign from 1984 to 2004 and every national political convention from 1972 to 2004. In 2006, *Politicians Are People, Too*, Benedetto's memoir of his long reporting career, was published.

A native of Utica, New York, Benedetto is a graduate of Syracuse University, holds an M.A. in Journalism from Syracuse's Newhouse School of Public Communication, and received an honorary doctorate from Syracuse in 1992. He has received numerous journalism awards, the National Italian American Foundation Media Award and, in 2009, was named Outstanding Professor by the Fund for American Studies.

The Riley Institute at Furman is a non-partisan organization affiliated with the Department of Political Science at Furman University. Named for former Governor of South Carolina and United States Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, the institute engages students and citizens across South Carolina in the arenas of politics, public policy and leadership.

Since its inauguration in 1999, the Riley Institute has developed a broad array of community leadership programs, symposia and conferences designed to promote discussion and analysis of public policy issues. The institute also conducts research on education and other areas of public policy in South Carolina and nationally.

Through its promotion of engaged learning for students, leadership development, policy research, and conferences featuring internationally recognized speakers, the Riley Institute has established itself as an innovator in policy and public leadership education.

Furman University is a selective, independent, coeducational liberal arts college of 2,700 students located at the base of the Blue Ridge mountains on a 750-acre campus in Greenville, South Carolina. The university emphasizes engaged learning, a hands-on, problem-solving and collaborative educational philosophy that integrates research, internships, study away, service learning and sustainability into a liberal arts curriculum. Committed to the education of the whole person, Furman provides a distinctive undergraduate education encompassing the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, mathematics and the natural sciences, and selected professional disciplines.



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