TOWARD A
CONSERVATISM
of
CONNECTION

RECLAIMING THE AMERICAN PROJECT

JUNE 27–29, 2018
Wilburn Auditorium | Pepperdine University
Wednesday, June 27

2:30–3 PM
Introductions: Context for the Conference—The Strange Road to a Conservatism of Connection
Pete N. Peterson, Dean, Pepperdine School of Public Policy and Cofounder, the American Project
Rich Tafel, Cofounder, the American Project

3–4 PM
The Social Psychology of a Nation Coming Apart
Frances Hart Broghammer, Resident Physician, University of California, Irvine Medical Center
Pete N. Peterson, Dean, Pepperdine School of Public Policy and Cofounder, the American Project

4–5:30 PM
Little Platoons and Big Ideas: Conservatism and the Art of Connection
MODERATOR Ted V. McAllister, Edward L. Gaylord Chair and Associate Professor, Pepperdine School of Public Policy
Panelists:
Jeremy Beer, Chairman, The American Conservative
Tim Carney, Visiting Fellow, American Enterprise Institute
Elizabeth Corey, Associate Professor, Baylor University
Daniel Garza, President, The LIBRE Initiative
Lauren McCann, Executive Vice President, Stand Together
Joshua Mitchell, Professor, Georgetown University

5:30–6:30 PM
Break

6:30–8 PM
Dinner and Keynote Address
Villa Graziadio Executive Center

Thursday, June 28

8:30–9:45 AM
Continental Breakfast
The Wisdom of Solomon: Finding the Balance in America’s Religious Liberty
MODERATOR Rich Tafel, Cofounder, the American Project
Panelists:
Stephanie Barclay, Associate Professor, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University
Bruce Frohnen, Eila and Ernest Fisher Chair, Pettit College of Law, Ohio Northern University
Cherie Harder, President, The Trinity Forum
Suhail A. Khan, Director, External Affairs, Microsoft Corporation
Monica Mehta, Managing Principal, Seventh Capital

9:45–10 AM
Break

10–11:15 AM
Viewpoint Diversity: Restoring American Higher Education as the Marketplace of Ideas
MODERATOR Pete N. Peterson, Dean, Pepperdine School of Public Policy and Cofounder, the American Project
Panelists:
Kaitlyn S. Carwin (MPP ’18), Contributing Editor, the American Project
James Kirchick, Visiting Fellow, Center on the United States and Europe and Project on International Order and Strategy, Brookings Institution
Heather MacDonald, Thomas W. Smith Fellow, Manhattan Institute
Sarah Ruger, Director, Free Expression, Charles Koch Institute
Jon Shields, Associate Professor, Claremont McKenna College

11:20 AM–12:05 PM
Bill and Ted’s Excellent Conversation: Why Conservatives Must Think Historically
Ted V. McAllister, Edward L. Gaylord Chair and Associate Professor, Pepperdine School of Public Policy
Wilfred “Bill” McClay, G. T. and Libby Blankenship Chair, University of Oklahoma

12:15–1:30 PM
Lunch and Keynote Address
Villa Graziadio Executive Center

1:45–3 PM
Protecting Us Against Attack: What Is the Evolving Role of Foreign Engagement for America?
MODERATOR Terry McCarthy, President and CEO, Los Angeles World Affairs Council
Panelists:
Robert G. Kaufman, Robert and Kathryn Dockson Professor, Pepperdine School of Public Policy
William Ruger, Vice President, Research and Policy, Charles Koch Institute
Elizabeth Spalding, Associate Professor, Claremont McKenna College
Ryan Williams, President, The Claremont Institute

3–3:15 PM
Break

3:15–4:30 PM
E Pluribus vs. Unum?: Conservatives and the Fight for the Underdog
MODERATOR Rich Tafel, Cofounder, the American Project
Panelists:
Ruben Barrales, President and CEO, Grow Elect
Art Estopinan, President, The Estopinan Group, LLC
Sarah Longwell, Senior Vice President, Berman and Company
Joshua Mitchell, Professor, Georgetown University
Avik Roy, President, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity
John Wood, Jr., Director, Media Development, Better Angels

4:30–5:30 PM
Break

5:30–7 PM
Dinner
Casa Escobar
22969 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California 90265

Friday, June 29

8:30–9:45 AM
Continental Breakfast
The Next Coalition of Conservatism: A Millennial View of the Future
MODERATOR Guy Benson, Political Editor, TownHall.com
Panelists:
Michael Hendrix, Director, State and Local Policy, Manhattan Institute
Edith Jorge, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Republican National Committee
Kevin Kiley, Assemblyman, California State Assembly, District 6
Laura Maristany, Associate Director, Governance Program, Democracy Fund
Abby Skeans, CEO and Founder, Glossator Advising

10–11:15 AM
From Theory to Practice: Practical Steps to Transform Conservative Policy
MODERATOR Pete N. Peterson, Dean, Pepperdine School of Public Policy and Cofounder, the American Project
Panelists:
Rachel Barkley, Director of Outreach, House Republican Conference, US House of Representatives
Lanhee Chen, David and Diane Steffy Research Fellow, Hoover Institution
Tony Mills, Managing Editor, Real Clear Policy
Ryan Streeter, Director, Domestic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute
Robert Traynham, Head, Public Policy Communications, Facebook

11:15–11:45 AM
A Way Forward: Next Steps for the Project
Pete N. Peterson, Dean, Pepperdine School of Public Policy and Cofounder, the American Project
Rich Tafel, Cofounder, the American Project
Wednesday, June 27, 6:30–8 PM

DINNER AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
Trump—Symptom or Catalyst?

Donald Trump saw many faults in the Republican Party as well as the nation at large. As a presidential candidate, he leveraged these flaws with new approaches to restoring America’s economic vitality and stature abroad, and by focusing on four signature issues—illegal immigration, globalization, trade, and optional foreign interventions. Positioning himself as an outsider without allegiance to past protocols, commitments, or even presidential comportment, he was seen by half the country as a powerful antidote to an otherwise toxic future. In a polarized nation, is Trump the cause or the result?

Thursday, June 28, 12:15–1:30 PM

LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
What Can Trump and Reagan Teach Us About the Future Leader of a Conservative Coalition?

Great movements take great leaders. In his time, Ronald Reagan was derided by his opponents and much of the media, but he redefined for a generation what it meant to be conservative in America by crafting new coalitions. Also the subject of ridicule, President Trump is seen by some as the new Reagan, a leader building new coalitions. But others in the conservative movement see Trump as a dangerous anomaly who lacks a strong guiding philosophy. This debate will bring this discussion to life and imagine the leadership needed for the next generation of conservatism.

Our speakers will square off in a civil debate on previous and future leaders of the conservative movement.

This is a critical time in our nation’s history to be considering the impact America’s conservative movement can and should have on our politics and policy.
To learn more about the American Project, please visit our website at americanproject.org.

To learn more about our conference speakers, please visit our event website at https://bit.ly/2L8cdnk.