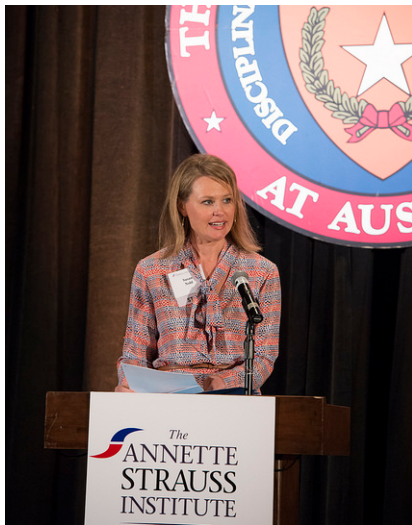


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New and Exciting Fall Semester!



Welcome from our director, Susan Nold

Dear Friends,
The fall of a presidential election year is a busy and exciting time at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life. As I celebrate my first full year as director, I appreciate more than ever the importance of our mission to cultivate informed voters and engaged citizens through research, education and outreach. I recently wrote an [Op-Ed](#) that appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and the Austin American Statesman to remind us that democracy depends on us to be present when we are

needed. I hope you will read it, share it, take part in our events this fall, and certainly remember to vote on November 8.

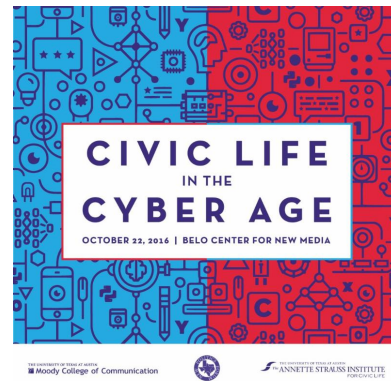
Upcoming Events

New Politics Forum Civic Technology Conference, Oct. 22

This one-day, youth-focused, nonpartisan conference will discuss the evolving landscape of civic engagement. We've invited some of our nation's top scholars and practitioners to help us explore the

opportunities and obstacles technology presents to improve political participation and community involvement.

If you are (or are wanting to become) a social entrepreneur, community leader, civic innovator, political professional, or just a more informed citizen, this event is for you! Register [here](#).



Executive Communication Training, January 19-20, 2017

Join us for our 8th annual training where we will help you create more engaging and effective presentations, gain confidence in public speaking and media interviews, and develop clear messages that resonate with target audiences. Register [here](#).

Reserve Your Seat Today!

Great Conversations 2017

Save the date, **February 28** to join Honorary Chairs Texas State Senator **Judith Zaffirini** (D-Dist. 21) and Texas State Representative **Todd Hunter** (R-Dist. 32) at our annual event. Learn [more](#).



Program Activity

UT Votes

UT Votes hit the ground running by quadrupling membership numbers at their first meeting. UT Votes members and partner organizations have registered over **3,130 students** to vote this semester and are still out registering voters daily. Kassie Barroquillo, a graduate research assistant for the Institute had the honor of introducing Texas Secretary of State, Carlos Cascos as he kicked-off the state's fall voter education campaign. After Cascos spoke to the class of nearly 500 UT underclassmen, UT Votes members registered 141 students to vote. To learn more or get involved visit our [website](#).



Research Activity

Engaging News Project

The Engaging News Project (ENP) has released a number of reports recently, including "[10 Things We Learned by Analyzing 9 Million New York Times Comments](#)." Other topics covered in recent reports include [clickbait headlines](#), [online news platforms](#), and how journalists feel about [comment sections](#). In the upcoming months, team members will be presenting at the Online News Association conference and the People Powered Publishing Conference, and will release research on the impact of solutions journalism, website design, and mobile notifications. ENP will also be hosting a [Social Media Summit](#) on Friday, Nov. 11, where digital news leaders will share their experiences on using social media during the 2016 election. The event is free and open to the public. Register [here](#).



Welcome to our newest Straussians



Jay Jennings
Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Jennings joins us from Philadelphia, PA where he received his PhD in Political Science from Temple University. Jay studies the capacity of citizens to effectively participate in politics and his work draws on the fields of political psychology, public opinion and political communication. His dissertation and recently published article investigates religion's role in shaping democratic citizens. You can read more

about Jay's research and background by visiting his [website](#).

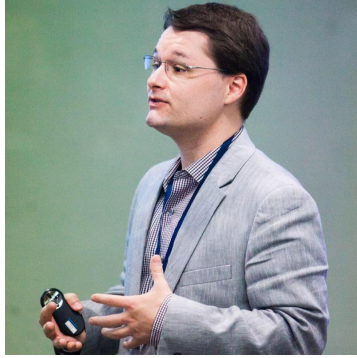
Katherine Haenschen
Research Affiliate

Dr. Haenschen earned a PhD from the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research explores the intersection of digital media and political participation, with a focus on how online interactions impact offline and online activity.

Prior to earning her doctorate she was a campaign manager and political consultant in Austin, Texas. Her article "Social Pressure on Social Media: Using Facebook Status Updates to Increase Voter Turnout" was recently published by the



Journal of Communication and is available [here](#). You may visit her academic [website](#).



Josh Scacco
Faculty Research Affiliate

Dr. Scacco earned his PhD from The University of Texas at Austin in 2014 and is an Assistant Professor of Media Theory & Politics in the Brian Lamb School of Communication and a Courtesy Faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Purdue University. He also serves as a Faculty Research Associate with the

Engaging News Project. Broadly, he researches topics in political communication, media and politics, online news, and presidential address.

Meredith Grower
Graduate Research Assistant
Speak Up! Speak Out!

Meredith is a Graduate Research Assistant for the Speak Up! Speak Out! (SUSO) civic education program at the Institute. She will assist with the coordination and planning of the upcoming SUSO Civics Fair scheduled November 18. Meredith received her B.A. in Psychology from The University of Arizona as is currently working towards her Masters of Science in Social Work with a concentration in administration and policy practice at the University of Texas at Austin.



Erin Smith
Graduate Research Assistant
Lebermann Forum

Erin is a second-year graduate student at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Prior to moving to Austin, Erin lived in Los Angeles and served as assistant director of the Center for Civic Education's *We the People Programs*. She oversaw a national network dedicated to supporting active citizenship

through classroom learning, planned professional development institutes, and managed federal grants.



Calendar

- **October 11:** UT Votes Voter Registration Rally
- **October 22:** NPF Civic Life in the Cyber Age Conference

- **November 7:** Lebermann Forum & KUT Two Guys on Your Head
- **November 11:** Engaging News Project Social Media Summit
- **November 18:** Speak Up! Speak Out! Civics Fair
- **January 19-20:** Executive Communication Training
- **January 21:** NPF Texas Legislative Intern Seminar
- **February 28:** 2017 Great Conversations Dinner



Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life

The Annette Strauss Institute exists to cultivate informed voters and active citizens. We do so through scholarly research, education, and nonpartisan outreach programs focused on three key pillars: civic discovery, young people, and civil dialogue.

annettestrauss.org



Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin, 2504 A Whitis Avenue (R2000), Austin, TX 78712

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