The Trent Lott Leadership Institute NEWSLETTER

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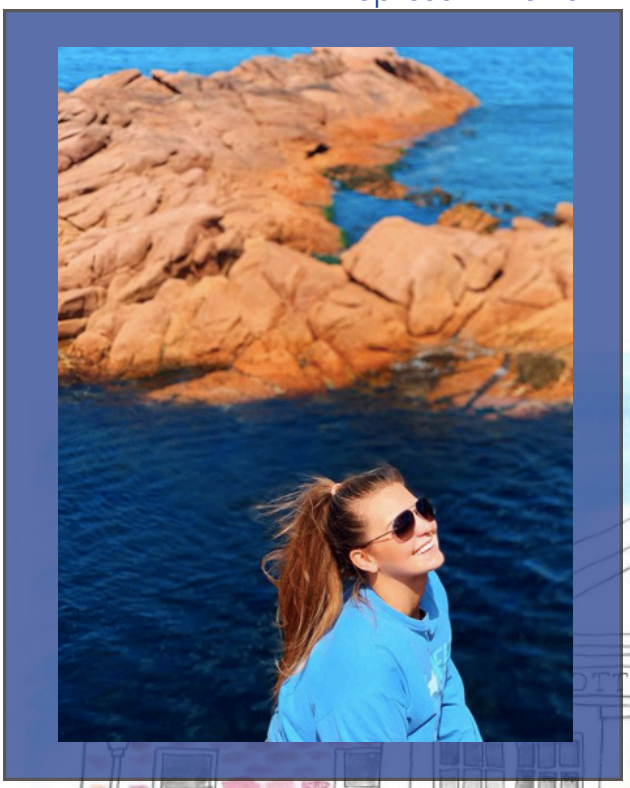
LOTT ABROAD

This past semester and over winter break, two Lott students represented PPL in various parts of the world. Mason Myers, ('20) and Ella Endorf ('22) studied abroad and are sharing their experiences with the newsletter. We are so proud of their accomplishments and know that they will continue to represent the Lott Institute in their future endeavors!



"Studying abroad for a semester in Melbourne, Australia was one of the most rewarding things I've done at Ole Miss. I was nervous about being so far from home but I grew as a person and was able to experience so much. I joined a sports club, traveled all over Australia and New Zealand, and made life long friends. I took some of the most interesting classes involving Australian foreign policy and Australian culture. Overall, my experience abroad challenged me and broadened my perspective of the world."
-- Mason Myers ('20)

"I spent a month in Salerno learning all about the rich culture and history of southern Italy. I took Italian classes and conversed exclusively in Italian with my host family. I walked on the lungomare, or seafront, on the way to class each morning and spent my afternoons at the beach or shopping. On the weekends, I traveled around the Campania region, visiting Naples, Pompeii, and Caserta -- known as the "Italian Versailles." When I wasn't studying or traveling, I explored Salerno. From the Giardino della Minerva, I saw the entire city of Salerno spread out in front of me with warm terracotta shingles and the Bay of Salerno sparkling in the afternoon sun. It was an experience I will never forget."
-- Ella Endorf ('22)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Katherine Sistrunk

Class of 2019

Master's Entry into Nursing student (MSN) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland

"Growing up in a family of Ole Miss graduates, I knew from a young age that I wanted to attend the University of Mississippi. Ole Miss felt like a home away from home and provided so many unique opportunities to pursue as a student. One of those opportunities was majoring in Public Policy Leadership within the Trent Lott Leadership Institute. Going into college, I wasn't really sure on which educational path I would pursue. So, I did some research and came across the PPL major. I was instantly interested. This major is unique in that it allows students to learn various aspects of policy and decide which career path most interests them. This major is not just for people who are interested in going to law school or pursuing political careers-it hosts students who become accountants, engineers, physicians, nurses and teachers, along with many others, who all hold the unique skill of understanding policy and who become leaders in their fields. The Lott Institute supported me greatly throughout my four years as a student, sending me on a study abroad trip to China, allowing me to intern in Washington, D.C., and advising me through my undergraduate honors thesis entitled,Hit Me with your Best Shot: A Critical Analysis of the Resistance to Vaccine Utilization.While at Ole Miss, I was a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, a leader within the Associated Student Body, an Orientation Leader, a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, and was honored to be awarded Phi Beta Kappa alongside my brother and sister. In summer 2017, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be a public policy intern at the American Medical Group Association (AMGA) in Alexandria, Virginia. I learned much more than I could have ever imagined during my time at AMGA, and thanks to this internship, I discovered my love for health policy and passion to advocate for healthcare, solidifying my goal to enter into the health care field as a nurse and to attend nursing school upon graduation.Thanks to my educational journey and various opportunities I had at Ole Miss and in the Trent Lott Leadership Institute, I now have the opportunity to pursue my Masters of Science in Nursing at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. At Hopkins, I serve as my Cohort's Class Director in the Student Nurses Association, the Co-Chair of Elections in the Nursing Public Health Network, and I was selected to be a Fuld Fellow, a leadership program that focuses on improving patient safety and quality of care. Additionally, I was selected to attend the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Student Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. in March as well as the National Student Nurses' Association's conference in Orlando, Florida in April. I also enjoyed participating in MedHacks, a medical hackathon and design competition where my team worked to develop an immunization scheduling app called VaxNow that we are continuing to work on through the next year. After graduation from my master's program, I hope to combine my interests in policy and nursing into a career, and I plan on furthering my education to earn a doctorate in nursing. I am not sure what the path will look like, but I look forward to my next four semesters of nursing school and hope that my experiences over the next year and a half can solidify my interests and goals for my future career."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Gregory Alston

Class of 2014

Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff,
MS Attorney General Lynn Fitch

My undergraduate experience at Ole Miss was one that I will always treasure. Ole Miss holds a very special place in my heart, and the love for our university and the state of Mississippi encouraged me to get involved and make a difference on campus. Meeting my wife at Ole Miss, Ann Ferrell, was by far the main highlight of my undergraduate experience. When I think about all of the things that I cherish from undergrad, my service opportunities stand out as well at the forefront. I am very thankful to have been elected as the Student Body President of Ole Miss from 2013-2014. Serving as ASB President, my senior year was a highlight of my undergraduate experience that I will never forget. Being able to serve the student body at Ole Miss and lead the student body forward in enacting policies and fulfilling goals to make the student body experience better for all students is something that I will forever be grateful for to the students. The Lott Leadership Institute and Senator Trent Lott played a big role in my election, and the Institute is capable of forming dynamic leaders. I was fortunate to serve the Ole Miss students as an ASB Senator, member of the ASB President's cabinet, and eventuallyASB President;and the Lott Leadership Institute played a major role in forming me to not only be a leader but a leader that can work with others to effectively get things done for our students. I will forever be grateful to Senator Lott for his advice when I was leading the student body.I can not talk about service without also mentioning the service opportunities that the Lott Leadership Institute is able to provide. Being able to go to South Africa with fellow public policy students my sophomore year to assist with building a garden at an AIDS orphanage was something that I will always remember as a highlight of my Ole Miss experience. Everything I was able to do at Ole Miss would not have been possible without my educational experience in the Lott Institute. When I look back on experiences where I was able to serve students and the recognition of being inducted into the Ole Miss Hall of Fame in 2014 with fellow Lott Leadership Institute students, I owe so much to God and the Ole Miss family for supporting me every step of the way.

After graduating from the Trent Lott Leadership Institute at Ole Miss, I enrolled at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Similar to my undergraduate experience, my experience in law school was one where I was very blessed to receive opportunities to serve and lead the student body. My first year of law school, I was elected by the student body as a Senator,and I was elected as Treasurer of the student body my second year of law school. My experience in being able to serve in these two positions and gaining the trust of the law school students allowed me to eventually be elected as the President of the Law School Student Body from 2016-2017. Being able to serve as LSSB President at the University of Mississippi School of Law was a highlight of my law school experience. I also was very fortunate to serve as 2 years as the C.E.O. of the Business Law Network at Ole Miss, which is housed in the Business Law Institute at the law school. The Business Law Network is a student organization that places a focus on connecting law students who are interested in business law with practitioners in the business law field and puts a tangible focus on connecting those students with job opportunities. After graduating from law school and passing the Mississippi bar, I continued to work for Senator Thad Cochran as I had done in law school where I interned in his Oxford office. I served as his North Mississippi Field Representative where I was eventually named General Counsel in the Office of Senator Thad Cochran. When Senator Cochran retired, I continued to serve in the same position as the North Mississippi Field Representative and General Counsel to United States Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith. Serving in these roles to Senator Cochran and Senator Hyde-Smith has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am proud to continue my service to Mississippi in my new position of Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff in Attorney General Lynn Fitch's office."

DR. CHEN'S BACK, BACK AGAIN!

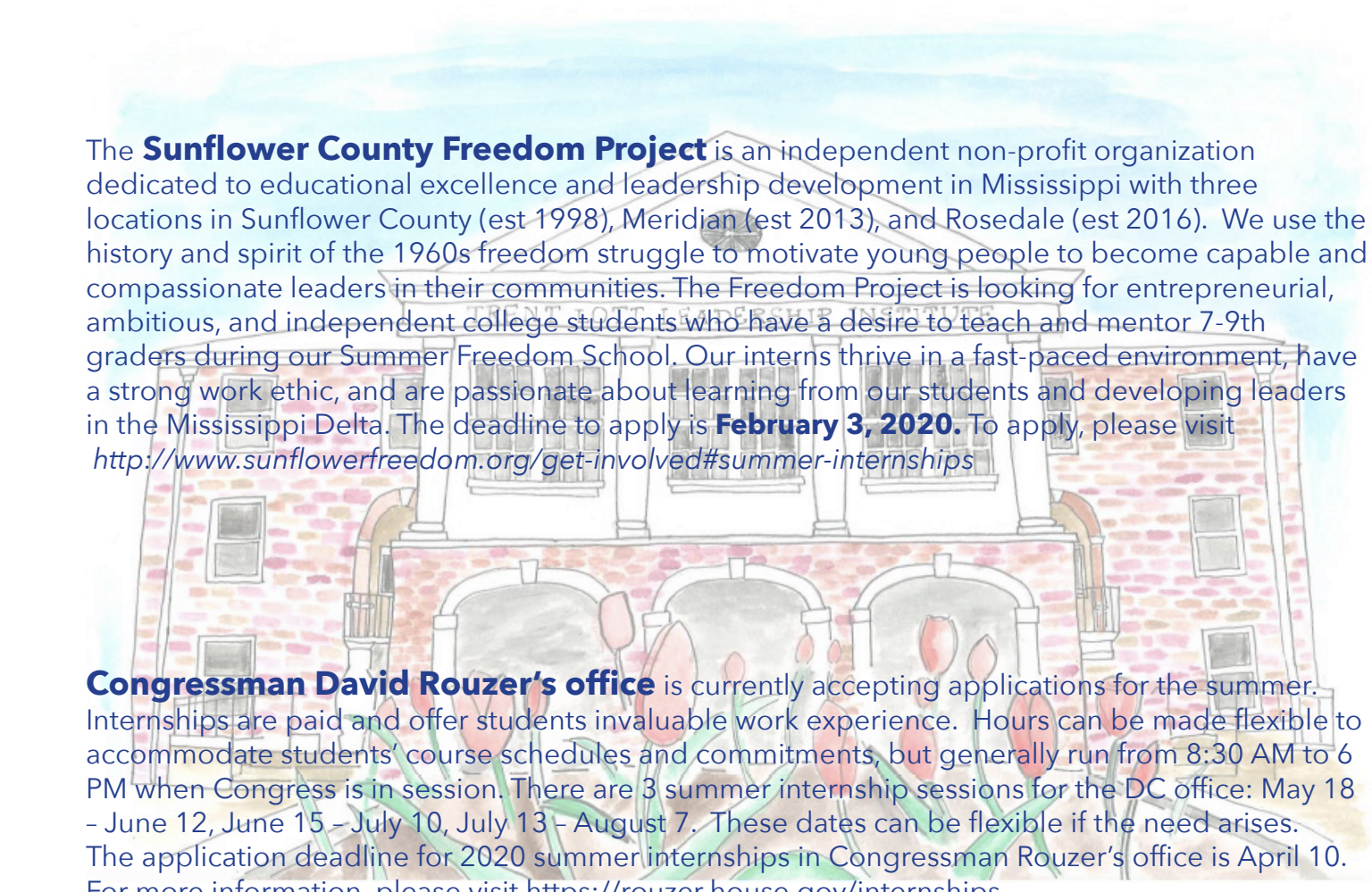
One of our favorite faces was misisng from Lott all fall semester, and we are so excited that he is back again! Dr. Chen was on sabbatical leave from August 21, 2019 to December 31, 2019. He spent three months at East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow doing research on U.S.-China relations, and one month in China engaging in academic exchanges with six universities. Dr. Chen also paid a short visit to Australia, Indonesia, and Vietnam during his sabbatical. It was a productive and rewarding sabbatical, but we are so happy to have him back with us for the spring semester!

DEBATE TEAM RECAP

The Warren Debate Union has wrapped up another successful semester, competing in three British Parliamentary debate tournaments and hosting two public debates on campus. At Wheaton College, Spencer Heitman, Olivia Kemp, Atticus Nelson, and JR Riojas advanced to finals. At the University of Denver, Atticus Nelson and JR Riojas advanced to semifinals while Emily Shy placed second among novice speakers. At the University of North Georgia, Allen Cuff and Paige Jones advanced to finals while Andy Flores and Spencer Heitman won novice finals. The Union also hosted two public debates on academic integrity and democracy in keeping with its mission to promote discourse at the University of Mississippi.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The **2020 Eisenhower Internship Program** is intended for undergraduate students and will run from late-May until early-August. The deadline for submitting application materials is **Friday, February 7, 2020 by 5pm EST**. Candidates will receive a final decision on their application by mid-April. For more information on this internship, please visit *https://gop.com/internships*.



The **Sunflower County Freedom Project** is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to educational excellence and leadership development in Mississippi with three locations in Sunflower County (est 1998), Meridian (est 2013), and Rosedale (est 2016). We use the history and spirit of the 1960s freedom struggle to motivate young people to become capable and compassionate leaders in their communities. The Freedom Project is looking for entrepreneurial, ambitious, and independent college students who have a desire to teach and mentor 7-9th graders during our Summer Freedom School. Our interns thrive in a fast-paced environment, have a strong work ethic, and are passionate about learning from our students and developing leaders in the Mississippi Delta. The deadline to apply is **February 3, 2020.** To apply, please visit *http://www.sunflowerfreedom.org/get-involved#summer-internships*

Congressman David Rouzer's office is currently accepting applications for the summer. Internships are paid and offer students invaluable work experience. Hours can be made flexible to accommodate students' course schedules and commitments, but generally run from 8:30 AM to 6 PM when Congress is in session. There are 3 summer internship sessions for the DC office: May 18 – June 12, June 15 – July 10, July 13 – August 7. These dates can be flexible if the need arises. The application deadline for 2020 summer internships in Congressman Rouzer's office is April 10. For more information, please visit https://rouzer.house.gov/internships.

Congressman Stephen Palazzo's office is currently accepting applications for a summer internship in Washington D.C. The deadline to apply is March 1. For more information please visit https://palazzo.house.gov/at-your-service/internships.htm

SAVE THE DATES

SENIORS

Please email *pfarmer@go.olemiss.edu* with any questions, comments, or concerns. More details coming soon!

FIRST EVER LOTT FORMAL

The Lott Advisory Board is excited to annouce that it will be hosting Lott's first ever Formal!!

It will be held on **April 7th** from 7-11 PM at the Oxford Powerhouse. We are also pleased to announce that this formal is benefiting the Sunflower County Freedom Project. Thus, a portion of ticket and t-shirt sales from the Formal will be donated to the Sunflower Freedom Project. We will also be hosting a book drive the week before the Formal as well! We will have lots of updates as the weeks come, so be sure to follow our Instagram and check your emails to stay in the know!

NEWS AND EVENTS

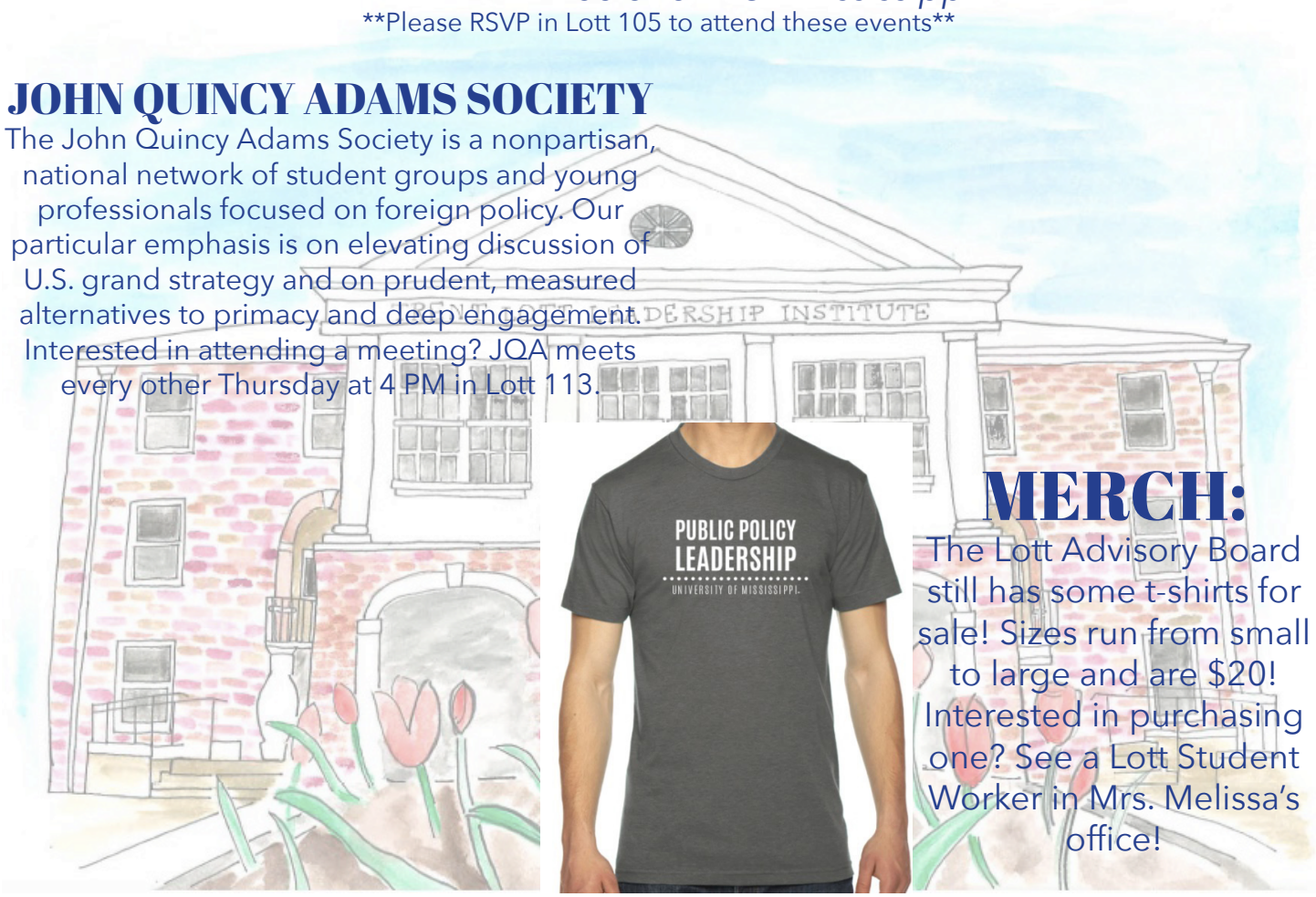
LUNCH AND LEARNS:

Feb 5 -- Peyton Warrington, *Administrative Resident at Baptist Hospital*
Feb 20 -- Holly Reynolds , *Dean of the College of Liberal Arts*
March 4 -- Karen Matthews, *Delta Health Alliance*
April 3 -- Vince and Neal Ann Chamblee, *Ole Miss and Lott Leadership Alumni*
April 24 -- Abe Hudson, *MS State Representative;* Adrienne Hudson, *Executive Director of RISE Mississippi*

Please RSVP in Lott 105 to attend these events

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS SOCIETY

The John Quincy Adams Society is a nonpartisan, national network of student groups and young professionals focused on foreign policy. Our particular emphasis is on elevating discussion of U.S. grand strategy and on prudent, measured alternatives to primacy and deep engagement. Interested in attending a meeting? JQA meets every other Thursday at 4 PM in Lott 113.



MERCH:

The Lott Advisory Board still has some t-shirts for sale! Sizes run from small to large and are $20! Interested in purchasing one? See a Lott Student Worker in Mrs. Melissa's office!

LOTT INSTITUTE CONTACTS:

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