

Political Expert Discusses the Road to the White House

By: Shannon Payne, Program Assistant



Professor, author and political expert Stephen Wayne visited UCF to discuss the 2016 presidential race.

Dr. Stephen J. Wayne, a professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, visited Central Florida on March 30 for a series of small meetings and discussions about the 2016 presidential race.

An expert on politics and the American presidency, Wayne has authored twelve books, several in multiple editions, and over 100 articles, chapters and book reviews. Among his major works, he is best known for “The Road to the White House,” now in its ninth edition. He regularly lectures to international visitors, senior federal executives and college students in the United States and abroad on the presidency and electoral politics.

Wayne met with around 20 UCF students, faculty and community members over lunch at the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government. He discussed the different paths by which several presidential candidates had reached their current point in the election cycle, the role of political outsiders in this cycle and the potential results of a contested Republican convention. He also touched on media, particularly selection bias inherent in social media platforms that allow users to pick and choose the information and candidates to which they are exposed.

Later in the afternoon, Wayne expanded on the role of the media during a roundtable discussion with several UCF students. Using different presidential candidates as examples, he illustrated how the media reports on or criticizes candidates in different ways to create particular narratives. Wayne also encouraged the students present to seek out a variety of new sources, both domestic and international, to create a full story.

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