JOHN GOODWIN
TOWER CENTER
for
POLITICAL STUDIES
“Senator Tower’s vision, along with his keen grasp of history, policy and oratory, made his presence in the Senate Chamber as large as the state he represented. He laid the foundation for me and many of my colleagues who have pursued public office.”

Dan Branch
Member, Texas House of Representatives
Board Chair, Tower Center for Political Studies

A Message from the Director

The John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of public policy and international affairs, the advancement of public service and the education of the next generation of leaders. Since its creation in 1992, the Tower Center has sought to bridge the gap between ideas, scholarship and teaching and the real-world practice of politics and public policy. The Center’s vision has been realized as a result of our Board leadership, beginning with founding Board Chair Annette Strauss, and continuing through our current Board Chair Dan Branch.

The Center is committed to the ideals of the late U.S. Senator and SMU alumnus John Goodwin Tower ’53. Both a transformative political figure and a college professor, Senator Tower left a legacy as a leader, educator and public servant. His leadership in national security policy and international politics reflected his lifelong devotion to learning and scholarship. The Tower Center honors his commitment to public service and his dedication to inspiring and educating students as future public servants and engaged citizens.

During its lifetime, the Tower Center has increased in prominence as an internationally recognized resource for information and ideas about public policy. The Center provides insights and perspectives that contribute to scholarship and public debate on a broad range of issues.

The Center fulfills its mission through teaching and research, and by hosting lectures and sponsoring conferences featuring prominent scholars and public officials from around the United States and the world.

The Tower Center is housed in SMU’s Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, where minds are moving the world. It is closely connected to a number of departments within the College, especially political science, international and area studies, public policy and other social science disciplines.

James F. Hollifield
Professor of Political Science
Director of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies
Empowering students to lead and serve is a top priority of the Tower Center, which serves as a crucial resource for more than 450 undergraduate students across all majors and schools. The Center draws on the knowledge of professors, practitioners and scholars from a variety of fields, enabling students to explore politics and policy from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The Tower Center offers students numerous opportunities to gain valuable out-of-classroom experience through the Student Forum, John G. Tower Center Student Fellowships and the Tower Center Scholars Program.

The Student Forum allows undergraduate students to build their own programs and participate in student “practicums.” Student Forum events emphasize discussion and debate between individuals from diverse fields of study. The Student Forum also enables undergraduate students to submit research articles and participate in the production of Dialogue: Undergraduate Journal for Political Studies.

John G. Tower Center Student Fellowships provide a gateway for students to pursue work in politics and government. Undergraduate Fellows collaborate closely with faculty to develop research projects that either become published or presented for faculty or professional review. Each fellow is designated by the name of the fellowship benefactor:

- Edwin L. Cox Fellowship
- Al G. Hill, Jr. Fellowship
- Tom Bryant Medders, Jr. Fellowship
- Henry S. Miller Fellowship

The Tower Center Scholars Program, a new academic initiative, will bring together students from all schools at SMU to participate in an interdisciplinary program, merging each student’s chosen field of study with the study of national and international politics, culture and economics. Students will take courses designed to help them develop the skills they will need to fulfill leadership roles.

“...the Center not only influenced my SMU experience, but also ultimately transformed it. The John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies broadened and deepened understanding of the world’s most pressing issues, introduced me to a professional setting and extensive network in the private and public sectors, and provided both internship and research opportunities.”

Adriana Martinez
Political Science major

Students who study with the Tower Center learn to think analytically and problem solve. Their careers in public service embody the ideals on which the Tower Center was founded.
The Tower Center regularly hosts major figures in public and international affairs for lectures, seminars and conferences. The Tower Center Forum provides residents of the Dallas-Fort Worth region with access to prominent leaders and cutting-edge research, facilitating a scholarly exchange of perspectives and ideas in a nonpartisan, academic setting.

Tower Center Forum members receive invitations to conferences, symposia, seminars and lectures with leaders, practitioners and experts in public and international affairs. Many of these events enable members to have access to today’s power brokers, policy makers and top scholars in off-the-record briefings and private members-only events.

TOWER CENTER SPEAKERS
The Tower Center hosts major figures in domestic and international affairs for lectures, seminars and other events. A select list of speakers includes:

- Zbigniew Brzezinski

- William Cohen
  Secretary of Defense, President Bill Clinton (1997–2001)

- Wesley Clark
  General of the United States Army

- Henry Kissinger
  United States Secretary of State, President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford (1973-1977)

- Brent Scowcroft
  United States National Security Advisor, President Gerald Ford (1975-1977)

- Jim Steinberg
  United States Deputy Secretary of State, President Barack Obama (2009-2011)

- Stephen Hadley

- Robert Gallucci
  President, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

- Anne O. Krueger
  First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (2001-2006)

- Robert Zoellick
  President, World Bank (2007-2012)

- Álvaro Uribe
  President of Colombia (2002-2010)

- Robert Jordan
  United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2001-2003)

- Richard W. Fisher
  President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

- Joe Straus
  Speaker, Texas House of Representatives

- Robert S. Strauss
  United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union (1991)
The Tower Center is actively engaged in research with SMU faculty and students, as well as with other universities and institutes in the United States and around the world. Combining expertise from scholars in political science, economics, law, business and other fields, the Tower Center conducts research in national security and foreign policy, political economy, American politics and international affairs. With the goals of stimulating research and public discourse, the Tower Center is bridging the gap among the worlds of policy, politics and academia, and bringing debates about the critical issues of the day to the heartland of America.

“Senator Tower personified the great American dream. Because of his brilliance, determination and unwillingness to give up, he was able to rise to great success in the public arena. His appreciation of patriotic and conservative values influenced my career.”

Cary M. Maguire
Tower Center Board Member
TOWER CENTER PROGRAMS

The Tower Center manages three interrelated research programs:
- National Security and Defense
- International Politics and Economics
- U.S. Politics and Economics

NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE

The ultimate objective of the Tower Center’s National Security and Defense program is to increase awareness of emerging national security threats while examining the impact of global economic, political and technological changes on national security. Through conferences and lecture series featuring top military officers, government officials and academic leaders, students expand their knowledge of issues ranging from conflict and the use of force to ethics, international law and organization.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

This program explores the relationship between politics and economics by focusing on the three pillars of globalization: international trade, money and finance and migration. How does globalization affect the security of the people of the United States, intensifying competition for resources, particularly energy, water and human capital? The program covers economic and political change in Europe, Russia, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa with emphasis on human development.

U.S. POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

This program focuses on the effects of changing economic and security environments on America’s institutions and policies, the well-being of its people and traditional American liberties. It also examines how the United States’ approach to its political, economic and cultural challenges on the domestic front affects its ability to promote its interests abroad.
The Tower Center bestows, as its highest honor, the Medal of Freedom, in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the advancement of democratic ideals and to the security, prosperity and welfare of humanity. Recipients have included former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, U.S. Senator John McCain, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush.
Tower Center and the George W. Bush Presidential Center

The Tower Center acts as a gateway between Dedman College and the George W. Bush Presidential Center, housing the Library, Museum and Institute. The Tower Center helps undergraduates in the liberal arts take advantage of Bush Center resources, and coordinates research and teaching activities among the Bush Institute, the Library and SMU undergraduate programs. The Tower Center works with the Bush Center to organize programs and events that give students more exposure to prominent scholars, politicians, diplomats and other public figures who visit SMU and the Bush Center. The Tower Center’s dedication to scholarly excellence, education of undergraduates and fostering non-partisan research and public discourse on the great issues of the day provides the basis for productive and exciting synergy with the Bush Center.

For more information, call the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies.
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smu.edu/tower