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News, Research and Events

June 6, 2022



## Leading U.S. diplomat David Satterfield named director of Baker Institute

Ambassador [David M. Satterfield](#), who has over four decades of diplomatic service and policy and management leadership experience in the United States and overseas in the Near East and Europe, will succeed Ambassador [Edward P. Djerejian](#) as director of the Baker Institute in July. Satterfield has served as assistant secretary of state, National Security Council staff director and as ambassador to Lebanon and Turkey and chargé d'affaires in Iraq and Egypt.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to maintain and build upon the extraordinary accomplishments of Secretary Baker and Ambassador Djerejian in establishing and leading Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy for the past three decades," Satterfield said in a [news release](#) announcing his appointment. "The institute is rightly regarded as the top university-affiliated think tank in the world. I look forward to continuing the commitment to data-driven, nonpartisan research and policy recommendations for decision-makers in areas of critical importance to United States domestic and foreign interests."

Ambassador Djerejian, who led the Baker Institute to global prominence over his 28 years as director, is set to retire at the end of June. "I could not be more delighted with my successor as director of the Baker Institute," Djerejian said. "No one is better prepared than Ambassador David Satterfield to take on the institute's reins. He brings a most distinguished Foreign Service career, outstanding substantive and management skills as well as his extensive experience in policy formulation. His unique combination of skills along with his great foresight will make Ambassador Satterfield a remarkable Baker Institute director."

"I am especially pleased that David M. Satterfield has agreed to accept the position as director," said former Secretary of State [James A. Baker, III](#), the honorary chair and namesake of the Baker Institute. "Ambassador Satterfield is a clear-eyed, indefatigable and serious diplomat with a well-earned reputation of being able to find workable ways forward in difficult situations. Above all, he is particularly well-suited to accomplish the institute's goal of being a bridge between the world of ideas and the world of action."

Rice President [David Leebron](#) said that Rice and the Baker Institute "are extraordinarily fortunate to have recruited a leader with the experience, intellect and global reputation and policy skills of Ambassador Satterfield. I am confident David will continue Ed's remarkable leadership in growing the impact, breadth and excellence of one of the foremost jewels of Rice."

Learn more about Satterfield's extensive policy experience and read the full remarks from Ambassador Djerejian, Secretary Baker and President Leebron [here](#).

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## Appointments and honors



### **Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian named Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative**

Ambassador [Edward Djerejian](#) will join the [Middle East Initiative](#) at [Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs](#) as a senior fellow this fall, following his retirement from the Baker Institute in June. He will share with students his experience in the Middle East, reflect on important lessons learned during his diplomatic career and explore options for resolving seemingly intractable conflicts in the region and beyond. "I am honored ... [and] look forward with great anticipation to engaging with Harvard students, fellows and faculty to study and address the key issues the broader Middle East region faces, and to also draw on my Foreign Service career to provide impactful policy options for decision-makers in the conduct of United States diplomacy," Ambassador Djerejian said. Read more in Harvard's [announcement](#).

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### **Dr. Huda Zoghbi shares prestigious 2022 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience**

[Dr. Huda Zoghbi](#), a member of the Baker Institute Board of Advisors and Rice Board of Trustees, is a co-recipient of the 2022 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience, a prestigious million-dollar award recognizing scientific breakthroughs. Presented every two years by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, the prize was awarded to Zoghbi "for pioneering the discovery of genes underlying a range of serious brain disorders." Zoghbi — who is a professor of pediatrics, neurology, neuroscience, and molecular and human genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and founding director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital — was also recognized for her work on Rett syndrome and spinocerebellar ataxia type 1. Read more about the prize and Zoghbi's work [here](#).

***“Voters take high gas prices out on the president and his party, [but] what Americans pay is based on trade and investment decisions by thousands of players all over the world.”***

Jim Krane, Wallace S. Wilson Fellow for Energy Studies,  
in [Al Jazeera](#)

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## Latest research



**The future of security relations in the Americas.** The role of the U.S. in regional security alliances is shifting, writes nonresident scholar [Richard J. Kilroy Jr.](#) With the Summit of the Americas underway, his new paper assesses four possible future scenarios and offers recommendations for a reimagined Organization of American States. Read it [here](#).



**How power contract transparency can help fight poverty and climate change.** Energy for Growth Hub’s [Rushaiya Ibrahim-Tanko](#) and the Center for Energy Studies’ [Todd Moss](#) explain that creating a global norm for power purchase agreement transparency is a zero-cost way to address two global crises — climate change and energy poverty. Read their blog post [here](#).



**Emir’s funeral becomes Biden’s hoped-for reset with UAE.** The high-level U.S. delegation sent to Abu Dhabi following the death of Sheikh Khalifa, the president of the UAE, reveals the Biden administration’s desire to improve tenuous ties between the U.S. and the Emirates, writes nonresident fellow [Annelle Sheline](#). Read her article in [Responsible Statecraft](#).

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## Upcoming events

**Cátedra México: A Conversation with Silvia Giorguli Saucedo, President of El Colegio de México.** Silvia Giorguli Saucedo, president of El Colegio de México and the inaugural chair of the Cátedra México program at Rice University, discusses current and emerging challenges in the U.S.-Mexico relationship. **June 15 | 5:30 p.m. CDT**

**Preventing Firearm Injury in the Greater Houston Area Through Purpose and Policy.** This symposium highlights local research efforts in firearm injury prevention, public health-based community interventions and innovative strategies to address firearm injury and violence in the greater Houston area and beyond. **June 21 | 8:00 a.m. CDT**

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Rice University, MS-40, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892