Cover: The Barbara and Gerald D. Hines Research Lab
This annual report covers the activities of the institute for fiscal year 2017 from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.

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Year at a Glance

6 research centers
8 research programs
55 fellows, scholars and research staff
81 Rice faculty and affiliated scholars
101 events
124 blog posts
133 student interns
166 classes taught
201 countries reached on the web
228 publications
18,973 media citations
26,642 followers on social media
Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank in Houston, Texas. The institute produces independent research on domestic and foreign policy issues with a focus on providing decision-makers in the public and private sectors with relevant and timely policy assessments and recommendations.

By bringing statesmen, scholars and students together, the institute broadens the content and reach of its policy assessments and recommendations, and provides an open forum for debate and discussion.

The institute educates students on public policy issues and related subjects by offering courses at Rice University and sponsoring student intern and mentoring programs at home and abroad.
Honorary Chair’s Message

On March 31, 1993, I gave a speech at Rice University outlining my vision for the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. I spoke about the deep need in our country for thoughtful ideas to guide and inspire action, and the ways I hoped the Baker Institute would achieve this goal.

Twenty-five years ago, it would have been hard to imagine the institute coming as far as it has, as fast as it has. Every year since that speech, the Baker Institute has grown broader in scope, deeper in analysis, and more dynamic in the ways it engages with stakeholders. Drawing on Houston’s unique comparative advantages, the institute has exceeded expectations in offering valuable analysis on the most important policy challenges of our time. This was demonstrated again this year by the institute’s ranking as one of the world’s top five university-affiliated think tanks.

The institute’s research continues to grow in the important subject areas we have addressed since day one, as well as in new ones. An exciting example of this growth is the institute’s newly established Presidential Elections Program, which will be wholly unique in the study of modern presidential electoral politics and campaigns. The program comes at an important time. As someone who has been involved in a number of presidential races, I can say without question that this program will be a valuable resource for stakeholders of all political parties to better understand and respond to the changing dynamics of American politics.

The Baker Institute has evolved a great deal over the past quarter century, and in the years ahead we will continue to seek new opportunities to make a difference in guiding policymaking and political dialogue through trustworthy research. Our founding principle of nonpartisan, data-driven policy analysis has served us well over the years, and will continue to guide and differentiate the institute. We believe the future is bright.

As we plan for the Baker Institute’s 25th anniversary in 2018, we hope you will continue to be involved in this meaningful journey.

04.13.17  Former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III, presents humanitarian Marguerite Barankitse with the James A. Baker III Prize for Excellence in Leadership for her commitment to the prevention of violence and genocide and to the stabilization of Burundi.

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Honorary Chair
At a time when our nation and the world face major challenges and debates assail our institutions, Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy is more relevant than ever. Our steady commitment to our comparative advantages enables us to lend a respected voice to key domestic and foreign policy issues.

Thus, it is with much satisfaction that I report to you on the wealth of accomplishments of our past 12 months. The institute featured prominent speakers, research workshops and conferences. We launched a new Center for Public Finance to address national and local tax and fiscal policy, and an innovative program to study presidential elections. We recruited fellows in energy, health and drug policy, and we developed new research agendas. Our engagement with Rice students is solidly established through internship and other opportunities, as well as the numerous courses taught by our fellows, including those for the Master of Global Affairs program. Last but not least, the institute is fully committed to Rice University’s recovery policies following Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey.

Looking forward, our center and program directors were tasked with defining a five-year road map for the institute’s research, which I am pleased to report was approved by our board of advisors.

2018 will mark the Baker Institute’s 25th anniversary commemoration centered around the theme “A Quarter of a Century – Making History.” Our goal is to lay a strong foundation for the institute’s next 25 years with a series of programs and events that will culminate with a gala in the fall. We very much hope to celebrate this important milestone with you.

We can all be proud to have built an institute that is ranked as one of the very top university-affiliated think tanks in the world and that impacts our nation’s policy discourse. Allow me to express my profound gratitude to you, the members of our board of advisors, donors, researchers, students, staff and the Rice and Houston communities. Without each of you, the institute would not have received these laurels and we are honored by your participation, commitment and support.

The Honorable Edward P. Djerejian
Director
Research Centers and Programs

11.29.16  The Baker Institute and Rice University’s Politics, Law & Social Thought Program examine the rise of populist movements in Europe and the United States.

RESEARCH CENTERS

Center for Energy Studies
- Electricity Policy
- Energy and Environment
- Global Natural Gas
- Unconventional Resources
- Global Oil
- Energy Access and Geopolitics

Center for Health and Biosciences
- Domestic Health Policy Analysis
- Global Health
- Biomedical Research

Center for the Middle East
- Conflict Resolution and U.S.
  Foreign Policy
- Women's Rights in the Middle East
- Political Economy of the Arab Gulf
- Islamist Movements
- U.S.–Iran Relations
- Pluralism and Inclusion

Center for Public Finance

McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Mexico Center
- The U.S.–Mexico Border
- Energy
- The Rule of Law
- Trade and Economics

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

China Studies
Drug Policy
International Economics
Latin America Initiative
Presidential Elections
Religion and Public Policy
Science and Technology Policy
Space Policy

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Baker Institute Student Forum
French Institute of International Relations
Jesse Jones Leadership Center Summer in D.C. Policy Research Internship Program
Moscow Summer Intern Program
Urban Lab: Middle East

LECTURE SERIES

Director’s Lecture Series
McLarty Lecture Series
M.D. Anderson Medicine, Research and Society Policy Issues Series
Shell Distinguished Lecture Series
Vecinos Lecture Series
AWARDS AND OTHER HONORS

Linda Capuano
Elected to serve a second term on Peak Reliability’s board of directors and as chair of its governance committee
Elected emeritus advisor to the board of directors, Produced Water Society

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen
Appointed to the Committee on Academic Freedom, Middle East Studies Association of North America

Edward P. Djerejian
Order of Honor, Republic of Armenia

Vivian Ho
Healthcare Advocacy Award, Doctors for Change
Outstanding Article of the Year Award, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project

Peter Hotez
2017 Distinguished Achievement Award, B’Nai B’rith International
2017 John P. McGovern Award, American Medical Writers Association
Named Chadwick Memorial Lecturer, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Named one of Fortune magazine’s “34 Leaders Who Are Changing Health Care”
2017 Carlos Slim Foundation Health Award

Michael Maher
Selected to the board of directors, Association of Rice Alumni

Kenneth B. Medlock III
Named distinguished fellow, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan

Francisco J. Monaldi
Appointed nonresident fellow, Center for Global Energy Policy; senior adjunct researcher, School for International and Public Affairs; and member of the Committee on Extracative Industries, Center on Sustainable Investment, Columbia University

Quianta Moore
Named member of Mayor Sylvester Turner’s Task Force on Equity

SCHOLARSHIPS

Aaron Huang ’18
Gilman International Scholar
Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship

Mishi Jain ’17
Truman Scholar
### 2016–2017 FELLOW/SCHOLAR–TAUGHT COURSES

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<td>Chinese Politics</td>
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<td>BIOC 310</td>
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<td>Field Trips for the Earth</td>
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<td>The Science Behind Global Warming</td>
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<td>Trends in Cuban Culture</td>
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<td>International Cooperation</td>
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8 | Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy
10.28.16  Students from the Master of Global Affairs Program meet with General Electric CEO Jeffrey R. Immelt prior to a discussion on global competitiveness and the Texas economy.
As the market struggled to maintain oil prices while U.S. shale production rebounded, the Center for Energy Studies (CES) analyzed data, government policy and geopolitics to understand the ramifications for industry, policymakers and energy consumers. The center’s policy studies, briefs, commentaries, conferences and engagement with industry and government were instrumental in the CES maintaining its No. 2 ranking among the world’s energy and natural resource policy think tanks.

The center added three new fellows in fiscal year 2017: Gabriel Collins, Baker Botts Fellow in Energy & Environmental Regulatory Affairs; Christopher Smith, Advisory Board Fellow in Energy Studies; and Adrian Duhalt, Postdoctoral Fellow in Mexico Energy Studies.

A major initiative for the CES was a series of energy briefs for the Trump administration. The reports provided guidance on energy policy, policy toward the hydrocarbon sector in Latin America, the U.S.-Saudi relationship and challenges limiting the beneficial use of produced water from oil and gas operations.

Kenneth B. Medlock III, the James A. Baker, III, and Susan G. Baker Fellow in Energy and Resource Economics and senior director of the CES, co-authored a major study on “Electricity Reform and Retail Pricing in Texas” with Rice faculty scholar Peter Hartley and nonresident scholar Olivera Jankovska. The report determined that “deregulation” of electricity generation in Texas led to improvement in company and market efficiency to the benefit of retail electricity customers.

Medlock continued his analysis of the U.S. shale revolution by publishing studies, co-authored with CES fellows and other experts, on the employment impacts of upstream oil and gas investment in the U.S. and on the ability of shale producers to scale up development activity.

Jim Krane, the Wallace S. Wilson Fellow in Energy Studies, focused on the challenges faced by Middle East oil and gas producers and governments in the new low price environment. Among other research, he assessed how Middle East nations are under pressure to reduce energy subsidies for their citizens as growing domestic energy consumption erodes the countries’ ability to export oil. Krane, with co-author Gabriel Collins, also examined evolving U.S. military guarantees for Gulf oil security in light of growing U.S. shale production and falling U.S. imports from the Middle East.
Mexico’s ongoing rollout of its energy reforms and Venezuela’s collapsing economy and oil sector were focus areas for Francisco J. Monaldi, Fellow in Latin American Energy Policy. He also assessed the role of state-owned oil companies in Latin America and the policies needed to improve the outlook for the region’s oil sector.

In conjunction with the Groundwater Protection Council, energy technology fellow Linda Capuano held regional workshops with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), state regulators and industry experts to assess the steps needed to increase the beneficial use of produced water.

Gabriel Collins’ research portfolio currently focuses on legal, environmental and economic issues relating to water, including the food-water-energy nexus; unconventional oil and gas development; and the intersection between commodity markets and a range of environmental, legal and national security issues in the U.S., China, Russia and Europe. His innovative analysis incorporates insights from sources in China, Russia and Mexico.

Christopher Smith, who joined the CES after three years of service as the assistant secretary for fossil energy at the DOE, will work on energy poverty and energy resource development in developing nations, particularly in Africa. He will also expand on his interests in carbon markets and energy transitions and how policy can address concerns of local communities adversely affected by shifts in energy use patterns. This research will build on previous work Smith spearheaded at the DOE.

The CES continued to expand its reach through its blog on Forbes.com, media outreach, and presentations at industry and government conferences. Senior Program Advisor Michael Maher, nonresident fellow Anna Mikulska and Krane were major blog contributors, writing on topics including climate change policy and the energy policies of the new administration. CES experts were cited more than 4,000 times in the media between July 2016 and June 2017.

The second cohort of over 20 students in the Masters of Energy Economics program, co-sponsored by the CES and the Department of Economics at Rice University, completed their degrees in summer 2017, and the third cohort started in August. The CES currently supports the research of five Ph.D. students and three postdoctoral experts.
04.03.17  His Excellency Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former NATO secretary general and former prime minister of Denmark, signs copies of his book at a CES event on America’s role in the pursuit of freedom.

09.13.16  Economist and environmental expert Woodrow W. Clark II presents his work on developing smart green cities to mitigate the effects of climate change.

02.22.17  BP’s Mark Finley chats with audience members after his presentation on some of the key issues that will shape energy supply and demand through 2035.

05.11.17  A reporter from CNN interviews fellow Jim Krane (right) on Dubai’s investments in solar energy and other renewable energy sources.

06.15.17  Richard Fontaine, president of the Center for New American Security, discusses the Trump administration’s approach to foreign policy.

“The shifting nature of economic, population, and energy demand growth presents new challenges for global market participants, opens significant new opportunities, and portends new geopolitical stresses.”

— Kenneth B. Medlock III
Senior Director, Center for Energy Studies
03.07.17 CES research on water as an economic good is discussed at a member-exclusive Roundtable event.

04.25.17 Energy fellow Gabriel Collins (left) talks to Roundtable members during a reception at the annual Spring Dinner.

05.02.17 Mike Hankey, U.S. consul general in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, describes the goals of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 plan and its impact on foreign companies.

06.08.17 The Center for Energy Studies, together with Texas Monthly and Direct Energy, convenes a panel of industry experts to explore electricity market reform in Texas.
Fiscal year 2017 brought continued recognition to the Center for Health and Biosciences (CHB) as it expanded its scope of research on the domestic and global fronts.

In September 2016, the CHB hosted Vice President Joe Biden, who spoke to a packed house at Rice’s Tudor Fieldhouse about the administration’s Cancer Moonshot initiative to speed new therapies to market. The vice president’s talk was part of the Medicine, Research and Society Policy Issues Series, a joint project of the CHB and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. This event ushered in a year also highlighted by lectures and conferences on the status of the U.S. health care system and potential reforms, the presidential candidates’ stances on health care, the growing phenomenon of stem cell tourism, the importance of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations, and the link between food deserts — communities without reasonable access to fresh, nutritious food — and community health.

The center’s Domestic Health Policy Analysis Program produced a number of peer-reviewed articles addressing health care system issues of national importance. Vivian Ho, CHB director and James A. Baker III Chair in Health Economics, published research on regional disparities in recommended cancer care across Texas, the significant potential for accountable care organizations to lower health care costs in the private sector, and the noticeable effect of higher cigarette taxes in reducing smoking-related hospitalizations. In collaboration with nonresident fellow Elena Marks, she published a paper documenting the decline in uninsurance for nonelderly adults under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Texas; the study also found that a substantial number of low-income Texas remain uninsured because the state refuses to expand Medicaid. Ho also received a grant from the Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute to study the growth of freestanding emergency departments. She and Associate Director Marah Short launched a three-year project supported by an Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research grant to study the integration of physicians and hospitals.

Health policy scholar Quianta Moore received two significant grants from the Houston Endowment. The first grant supports an assessment of the physical, mental and social needs of all children in the Houston Independent School District. The results will inform HISD health policy and investment decisions. The second grant, which supports a similar assessment...
of Houston’s Third Ward residents, will inform redevelopment strategies for the community. Moore, a physician and lawyer, also published multiple works on the ethics and legal challenges associated with molecular autopsies.

As income inequality rises in the U.S., some advocates are pressing for an increase in the minimum wage or a government-funded basic income to help the poorest Americans. Farhan Majid, the new L.E. and Virginia Simmons Fellow in Health and Technology for the Global Health Program, studied these policy mechanisms in a global context to measure their effectiveness in improving population health. He published an article analyzing the effects of minimum wage policies on the early life health of children in more than 50 low- and middle-income countries. Majid also studied the prevalence of HIV in Malawi and the health impacts of a Peruvian government national conditional cash transfer program.

The Baker Institute’s fellow in disease and poverty, Peter Hotez, and Kirstin Matthews, fellow in science and technology policy, have continued to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases and the steps policymakers can take to combat them. Hotez published numerous academic papers highlighting the inverse relationship between parasitic worm infections and human development.

The Biomedical Research Program, led by Matthews, published an analysis of the state “right to try” laws and their impact on patient access and health. Matthews continues to publish on cord blood stem cells with contributing expert Monica Matsumoto. In collaboration with nonresident scholar Ana Iltis, Matthews examined stem cell tourism and the FDA’s challenge of protecting the public while allowing speedy access to innovative new therapies.

Hagop Kantarjian, chair of the Department of Leukemia at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and a Baker Institute health policy fellow, continued to challenge the sky-high prices of cancer drugs and offered strategies to curb them, such as countering pharmaceutical industry efforts to delay the release of affordable generic drugs in the United States. Kantarjian also published commentaries advocating for health care as a human right and maintaining that the ACA, with some revisions, is the best means of guaranteeing health care for all Americans.
10.06.16  Farhan Majid, L.E. and Virginia Simmons Fellow in Health and Technology Policy, speaks with Roundtable members at the annual Fall Reception.

11.01.16  Quianta Moore, Fellow in Child Health Policy (right), meets Roundtable members after her presentation on the urgent need to invest in early childhood development.

12.02.16  Leaders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Texas state government and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center discuss HPV.

09.16.16  Vice President Joe Biden announces the rollout of trials.cancer.gov, a user-friendly website that offers patients up-to-date information about clinical trials across the nation.
“The ACA was designed to be budget neutral for the federal government. A Republican alternative that is equally successful in covering so many individuals will require careful thought on how this coverage can be paid for without adding to the federal debt.”

— Vivian Ho
Director, Center for Health and Biosciences

04.27.17 Peter J. Hotez, fellow in disease and poverty, explores the ideas in his latest book, “Blue Marble Health: An Innovative Plan to Fight Diseases of the Poor Amid Wealth.”
Conflicts, terrorism, geopolitical rivalries, and political and economic breakdowns are reshaping the Middle East. To address the region’s major questions, the Center for the Middle East (CME) provides comprehensive research and recommendations for decision-makers in the U.S. and abroad.

Over the past year, Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, director of the institute, outlined the Trump administration’s challenges and opportunities in the region, and offered recommendations on policy directions. He hosted a conference on U.S. policy toward Syria, which resulted in a report on American priorities and policy options for the conflict. The ambassador also outlined a coherent strategy for defeating radical jihadist terrorism, while fellows Samih Al-Abid and Yair Hirschfeld explored prospects for Israeli–Palestinian negotiations under the Trump administration.

Ambassador Djerejian teaches a Rice University graduate course on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

Marwa Shalaby, Fellow for the Middle East and director of the Women’s Rights in the Middle East Program, published on the role of women in Middle Eastern electoral politics. The program has continued its long-term, multi-country data project on regional governance and elections, presenting findings at regional and international academic institutions.

Shalaby serves as the principal investigator of a two-year project on pluralism and political participation in the Middle East. Co–principal investigators Kristian Coates Ulrichsen and A. Kadir Yildirim lead teams of experts examining the region’s economic and religious inclusiveness, respectively. This major project is supported by a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

Coates Ulrichsen has been a frequent commentator this year on developments in the Persian Gulf. In addition to numerous research reports, briefs and articles on Gulf political economy and security, he continues to organize and lead quarterly training sessions at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute for U.S. diplomats and government employees involved with the Persian Gulf. His book, “The United Emirates: Power, Politics and Policymaking,” was published in winter 2016.

Yildirim produced briefs and reports on Islam and politics. He is writing a book on the evolution of religious parties in Western Europe and the Middle East.
to be published in 2018. He serves as the principal investigator for a two-year project supported by the Luce Foundation on religious authority in the Middle East. In October 2016, he led a conference in Houston on contemporary Turkish politics; the findings have been published in a report. His book, “Muslim Democratic Parties in the Middle East: Economy and Politics of Islamist Moderation,” was published in fall 2016.


Joe Barnes, the institute’s Bonner Means Baker Fellow, addressed developments in the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy. His briefs and blogs covered U.S. Middle East policies.

Research scholar Abdullah Aydogan published a series of articles on electoral politics in the Middle East and civil-military relations. He also serves as the project manager of the center’s study on pluralism and inclusion.
09.15.16  Vali Nasr, dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (center), and Baker Institute director Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian speak to a guest at an event on U.S.-Iran relations.

10.13.16  Author Marc Lynch, founder of the Project on Middle East Political Science, signs copies of his new book following his presentation on the Arab uprisings.

03.30.17  His Excellency Itamar Rabinovich, former Israeli ambassador to the U.S., signs copies of his book “Yitzhak Rabin: Soldier, Leader, Statesman” after a dialogue with Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian on the life and legacy of the late Israeli prime minister.

“The U.S. should get out of the business of nation-building. A society must be built from within. We should not have the hubris to believe that we can form a democracy in our own image in a foreign culture. Intelligent engagement, not isolationism, is an answer.”

— Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian
Director, Baker Institute
03.08.17  His Excellency Khalid A. Al Falih (right), Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources and chairman of Saudi Aramco, and Basil Abul-Hamayel (center), CEO and president of Aramco Services Company, participate in a Baker Institute briefing on international energy policy issues.

06.05.17  Before her lecture at the Baker Institute, Kelly T. Clements (left), United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, meets with Rice University students for a discussion on the global refugee crisis.

01.26.17  Fellow Marwa Shalaby (at podium) introduces panelists at the launch of a two-year CME-Carnegie Corporation of New York project on fostering pluralism and inclusion in the MENA.
The Mexico Center’s major areas of study this year included trade, immigration and the border, issues that continue to dominate U.S.-Mexico relations and fuel controversy in both countries’ presidential politics.

Center director Tony Payan and Russell Green, Will Clayton Fellow in International Economics, published a major research paper in June on the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the U.S. economy, concluding that the “treaty simply does not possess the leverage to deliver a major boost or setback to the U.S. manufacturing sector.” The study’s release followed Payan’s testimony on transnational commerce and labor flows at a Texas House Committee on International Trade hearing in the spring. The center also hosted Vanessa Rubio, Mexico’s undersecretary of finance and public credit, in November for a conversation on the country’s economic outlook.

The center’s immigration research included studies on the economic and social impact of foreign professionals in the United States, and the factors that motivate Mexican entrepreneurs to migrate to America. Payan published the second edition of his book “The Three U.S.-Mexico Border Wars,” which explores drug trafficking, immigration and homeland security issues. His brief on realistic U.S. immigration policies was part of the institute’s series of recommendations for the Trump administration. In related work, Payan and research analyst Pamela Cruz showed how the geographic boundaries of the U.S.-Mexico border vary among private and government entities, and covered reports of immigrant abuse by U.S. border officials.

The center continues its multi-year project on the efficacy of private and public organizations on the U.S.-Mexico border. Over the summer, Cruz and Arizona State University doctoral student Manuel Gutierrez conducted field research with the goal of identifying ways to optimize operations in the region.

In November, a major study on the rule of law issues arising from Mexico’s historic energy reforms was published in a Spanish-language book. English versions of the chapters are available on the Baker Institute website. In addition, the study findings were presented at events in Mexico City and Monterrey.

Mexico’s energy reform was also the focus of research by nonresident scholar Miriam Grunstein, who analyzed...
employee training programs in the new framework of Mexico’s energy sector. Visiting scholar Javier Martínez-Romero studied the reform’s promise of technological innovation.

The center continues to cover Mexican politics and democracy. Nonresident scholar Jesús Velasco published two op-eds on the U.S.–Mexico relationship under the Trump administration. “It would be appropriate [for Mexico] to try to understand the U.S. rather than to label it and its leaders,” he wrote. “In doing so, Mexico will not only be able to make better-informed decisions, but will also teach its northern neighbors how important it is to fully understand the ‘other.’”

The Mexico Center expanded this year, welcoming three new nonresident experts: David A. Gantz, director emeritus of the international trade and business law program at the University of Arizona College of Law, who works on international trade and economics issues; Gil Kerlikowske, a former U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner who specializes in border issues; and Juan Antonio Le Clercq, a professor at the University of Las Americas in Puebla, Mexico, who focuses on corruption and impunity in Mexico. The center also hosted two young visiting scholars over the summer and a fall visiting scholar.

In May, Adrian Duhalt joined the center as a postdoctoral fellow in Mexico energy studies.

A number of notable events reshaped the political landscape in other parts of Latin America over the past year. Experts for the Latin America Initiative (LAI) analyzed the circumstances that led to President Dilma Rousseff’s impeachment in Brazil and the reelection of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, among other developments.

Central America’s political and economic stability continues to be of great importance to the United States. To better understand the dynamics of this region, LAI Program Director Erika de la Garza and Mark Jones, fellow in political science, assembled a team of experts to research the policymaking processes of Central American countries. The findings of the study were presented at a conference in Washington, D.C.

In October 2016, as relations between Cuba and the United States were improving, the LAI hosted a conference on the future of trade between the two countries and the island’s political outlook. Venezuela’s severe political, social and economic problems were addressed by a panel of experts at an event in March, and through commentary from various LAI experts, including Francisco J. Monaldi, fellow in Latin American energy policy.
08.24.16  Alan Bersin, assistant secretary for international affairs for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, discusses the management of North American border regions.

09.23.16  Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, Mexico’s secretary of energy, delivers a keynote address on the country’s energy reforms.

11.01.16  At a meeting with business and government leaders, Vanessa Rubio Márquez, Mexico’s undersecretary of finance and public credit, assesses recent trends in the country’s economy.

11.10.16  Panelists explore impunity, corruption and other challenges for the rule of law in Mexico.

03.02.17  Francisco J. Monaldi (right), Fellow in Latin American Energy Policy, describes the economic and political turmoil in Venezuela. At left is Erika de la Garza, program director of the Baker Institute Latin America Initiative, and Alejandro Grisanti, director of Ecoanalítica.
“No state stands to lose more from turning the clock back on NAFTA than Texas. To do so will affect not just trade and jobs but also tourism, the ability to attract foreign students, shoppers’ willingness to visit Texas and foreign direct investment from Mexico in Texas.”

— Tony Payan
Director, Mexico Center
March 2017 marked the formal establishment of the Center for Public Finance (CPF), the sixth major research center at the Baker Institute. A $3.25 million grant from the Charles Koch Foundation established the center’s Dynamic Analysis Program, which will focus on the use of computational models for policy analysis. The grant will also allow the program to develop a broader range of policy analyses and to more widely disseminate the findings to policymakers and the general public. In addition, the program will work on increasing the transparency of computational modeling and begin shifting to a more open source approach when possible.

The Dynamic Analysis Program will be a collaborative effort with the Becker-Friedman Institute for Research in Economics at the University of Chicago and will work closely with the Open Source Policy Group in Washington, D.C. The CPF supports two new public finance fellows, Joyce Beebe and Jorge Barro. Barro was an economist at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton Public Policy Initiative, and Beebe was previously an international tax director at Grant Thornton.

In May 2017, Beebe wrote a report on the policy issues influencing the development of a national paid family leave program.

In June, John Diamond, the Edward A. and Hermena Hancock Kelly Fellow in Public Finance and the CPF director, testified before the U.S. House Budget Committee on the important economic and fiscal benefits of pro-growth policies. In collaboration with Rice University’s Kinder Institute, he also published a paper on Houston’s pension crisis and advised policymakers on the state and local levels. Diamond and Rice faculty scholar George Zodrow produced a policy brief on U.S. fiscal policy and continued research on corporate tax reform, while Zodrow completed a paper on the factors affecting the taxation of capital income in a small open economy. Moving forward, the CPF will continue to inform policymakers and the general public about the potential effects of reforming U.S. tax and expenditure policies.

The McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation was established through a generous gift from the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation. The scope of its economic and econometric research offers timely insight into policy barriers and catalysts that can impact entrepreneurship and innovation.
The center’s core activities include developing an online research platform that empowers researchers to identify and address opportunities and challenges for public policy. This platform, accessible through the Baker Institute website, allows approved researchers across the U.S. to interactively participate in center research.

Edward J. Egan, the director of the center, released a series of policy briefs detailing how the new administration could implement policy changes to maximize economic growth through entrepreneurship and innovation. These briefs offered specific recommendations for small business lending, patent policy and for driving growth from the high-tech sector.

The center’s research on Houston and Texas startups also led to numerous media appearances and speaking opportunities. Egan provided recommendations directly to policymakers as a member of the city of Houston’s Innovation and Technology Task Force convened by Houston City Council member Amanda Edwards.
09.01.16 Interns and staff work on a project in the Baker Institute research lab.

08.29.16 At an event for Rice University students, Houston Texans CEO and Chairman Bob McNair provides insights into some of the key moments of his career.

“With growing competition from abroad, the U.S. must reform its fiscal policy to reduce debt, maximize economic efficiency and maintain its areas of competitive advantage.”

— John Diamond
Director, Center for Public Finance

03.28.17 From right, Edward J. Egan, McNair Center director, and Nathan Cook, Rice University’s director of governmental relations, meet with Sen. Ted Cruz in Washington, D.C.

04.25.17 From left, Joyce Beebe, fellow in public finance, talks with Roundtable members Winifer and Benjamin Cheng during the Annual Spring Dinner.

06.30.17 From left, fellows George Zodrow, John Diamond and Jorge Barro discuss the work of the Center for Public Finance.
10.28.16  From left, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, public finance fellow John Diamond, business owner Shannon DeYoung, U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady and General Electric chairman and CEO Jeffrey R. Immelt offer their perspectives on the policies needed to keep Texas at the forefront of the global economy.

04.24.17  The McNair Center hosts a debate on the government’s role in entrepreneurship.

05.09.17  John Diamond, director of the Center for Public Finance, discusses U.S. fiscal policy at a members-only Roundtable Dialogue. The series offers members exclusive access to Baker Institute experts and their current research.
In March, the Baker Institute announced the launch of a major new program to study presidential elections. Drawing on the legacy of Secretary James A. Baker, III, who had a leading role in five presidential campaigns, the Presidential Elections Program will hold a major conference in the years before and after each presidential election. These conferences, led by honorary bipartisan directors with firsthand experience managing presidential campaigns, will serve as national forums for the study and discussion of modern presidential electoral politics and campaigns. The program will be a unique resource that allows stakeholders from all political parties to better understand and respond to the changing dynamics of presidential elections.

In June, the institute named Katharine Neill Harris, formerly a postdoctoral fellow in drug policy, the first Alfred C. Glassell, III, Fellow in Drug Policy. The endowment was funded by a generous $3 million gift from the Glassell Family Foundation, led by Houston philanthropist Alfred C. Glassell, III. Two major focus areas for the Drug Policy Program this year have been U.S. marijuana reform and the opioid epidemic. Neill Harris and program director William Martin updated their brief, “Marijuana Reform: Fears and Facts,” to provide information on how states have been impacted by marijuana policy changes.

Martin testified before the Texas Legislature in support of marijuana decriminalization and syringe-exchange programs and wrote an issue brief, “Syringe Exchange: Sound Science, Proven Policy.” Neill Harris wrote a brief responding to the surgeon general’s report on causes of and treatments for opioid dependence. She also co-authored a report on strategies for addressing the spread of synthetic cannabinoids in Houston. In addition, she served on a transition team for Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg, providing recommendations on ways to divert low-risk offenders from incarceration to less severe measures.

10.18.16 As part of the Baker Institute’s White House Transition Project, a bipartisan panel of former key White House officials shares insights on the successful transfer of presidential power.

11.17.16 Shaun Casey, special representative for religion and global affairs at the U.S. Department of State, discusses religion and diplomacy.

10.11.16 Political science fellow Mark Jones reviews the state of the 2016 presidential race at a members-only Roundtable Dialogue.

09.14.16 Senior fellow Neal Lane announces recommendations for the president to consider when establishing science and technology policy priorities.

10.06.16 Drug policy fellows William Martin (far right) and Katharine Neill Harris (far left) share their research with Roundtable members at the annual Fall Reception.
Election results in the U.S. and Europe last year reflected rising doubts about globalization, integration and international trade. The International Economics Program weighed in with expert analysis of these issues. In the context of Brexit, Russell Green, the Will Clayton Fellow for International Economics, asserted that the political survival of globalism requires broader upward mobility and policies that support it.

The new U.S. administration brought with it skepticism to traditional U.S. trade policy. The international economics program’s research argued that measures countering exchange rate manipulation were unnecessary.

In light of the current administration’s criticism of NAFTA, a major research paper done in collaboration with Tony Payan, director of the Mexico Center, looked past political rhetoric and distilled academic evidence of NAFTA’s impact. The research found very little aggregate economic benefit from canceling or overhauling NAFTA, but significant downside in terms of potential damage to U.S.-Mexico relations. This research was presented in testimony before the Texas Legislature, and informally to congressional and White House staff.

As China prepares for its 19th Party Congress in fall 2017, China Studies fellow Steve Lewis wrote a policy brief on ways to increase and strengthen the number of “contact points” between the Trump administration and China’s future leaders.

Lewis also co-authored several major studies this year. In a first-ever survey of biologists and physicists in eight regions around the world, he analyzed perceptions of science and faith among scientists. In a second study, he relied on interviews with physicists in China to determine why the country has so few women in physics. A third study explored whether China’s increasingly cosmopolitan society will continue to be guided by guanxi, the system of influential relationships that facilitate business dealings.

Lewis’ work for mainstream outlets included an article about U.S. LGBTQ organizations for an AIDS-awareness NGO in China. He also co-authored a commentary for China-U.S. Focus on opportunities for cooperation between the U.S., China and Russia in space travel and energy.
09.26.16  His Excellency Edward Nalbandian, foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia, examines the geopolitical challenges in the Caucasus at a Director’s Lecture Series event.

09.19.16  U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman, chief trade negotiator of the United States, describes the economic impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

10.17.16  China Studies fellow Steven W. Lewis, right, leads a panel discussion on the current state of reforms in China.

10.25.16  International economics fellow Russell Green, second from left, listens as David C. Mulford, former U.S. ambassador to India and vice chairman international of Credit Suisse, talks to Rice students.

03.08.17  The U.S.-Hungary relationship and key issues facing Europe were the subjects of a talk by Réka Szemerkényi, Hungarian ambassador to the United States.

05.22.17  His Excellency Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, discusses the U.S.-Pakistan relationship.
The Space Policy Program sponsored another successful Moscow Summer Intern Program, sending 10 U.S. engineering students to participate in Bauman Moscow State Technical University’s “Space Development” workshop. The international space project, now in its seventh year, provides students with an understanding and appreciation of the benefits of cooperative space exploration.

In October, the program hosted “Lost in Space 2016,” at which fellow George W.S. Abbey moderated a panel discussion on the future of space exploration. This led to a Baker Institute report for the Trump administration offering recommendations on the direction of the U.S. space program.

The 10th International Space Medicine Summit was held in early November. It brought together all the International Space Station partners for discussions on maximizing the research needed to enable human exploration of space beyond low-Earth orbit.

In April, an international group of educators participated in a panel to discuss “Innovations in Education” with the intent of encouraging a larger number of young students to pursue careers in science and engineering. This will be a continuing area of interest for the institute’s Space Policy Program in 2017-18.

The Science and Technology Policy Program and its initiative, the Civic Scientist Program, explored new areas of policy research and expanded its public outreach. Fellows Neal Lane and Kirstin Matthews, along with postdoctoral fellow Kenneth Evans, developed recommendations for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in a widely distributed report that was forwarded to the Trump administration. Matthews and Evans are extending this research by assessing the impact of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, which brings together science and technology leaders to identify policy issues that are or should be priorities for the administration.

The Civic Scientist Lecture Series hosted four lectures by high-profile scientists. The Civic Scientist outreach program, which links Houston students to scientists and engineers from the region and visiting lecturers, reached students in more than 20 schools and received a 100 percent teacher approval rating and consistently positive feedback from students.
11.04.16  A panel astronauts, cosmonauts and space agency experts identify research goals at the 10th annual International Space Medicine Summit.

10.03.16  Space policy experts field audience questions on NASA’s present status and future.

02.08.17  Microsoft Research executive Jeannette M. Wing speaks on the intersection of information technology and public policy.

02.08.17  Physicist Sylvester James Gates Jr. speaks to students as part of the Civic Scientist Outreach program.

04.11.17  From left, National Science Foundation Director France A. Córdova, U.S. Rep. John Culberson and the NEWT Center’s Qilin Li sample water from a treatment system developed by Rice students and faculty.
The Baker Institute continues to engage and educate the next generation of scholars and leaders by providing opportunities for students to study public policy and its application in local, national and global affairs.

The Baker Institute Student Forum (BISF) hosted its fourth annual undergraduate public policy competition, inviting Rice students to submit policy research papers on solutions to new or existing challenges in the health care sector. Six teams of finalists presented their policy proposals to a panel of expert judges, and the top three teams were awarded cash prizes. Their papers will be published in an upcoming issue of The Rice Cultivator, Rice’s undergraduate public policy journal published by the Baker Institute.

The BISF also hosted various policy events, including a debate on immigration, a discussion on refugee policy and a foreign policy roundtable. Fellow Joe Barnes serves as the BISF’s faculty advisor.

The Master of Global Affairs Program, a unique professional course of study developed by the Baker Institute and Rice’s School of Social Sciences, graduated its first class of students this year. Students took policy courses, conducted research projects and completed policy internships in the U.S. and abroad.

Over the past year, 133 Rice students participated in internships offered by the Baker Institute. Undergraduates conducted research in policy areas that included Mexico, health, and innovation and entrepreneurship, and also provided administrative support to institute fellows and staff.

One of the most popular internships on campus is the institute’s Jesse Jones Leadership Center Summer in D.C. Policy Research Internship Program, which provides stipends that enable Rice students to perform research in the nation’s capital. This year, 10 exceptional undergraduates completed internships at the State Department, the Middle East Institute, Health and Human Services, and other organizations. Fellow Steven Lewis has served as director of the program since its inception in 2004.
04.08.17 Finalists from the Baker Institute Student Forum’s Fourth Annual Undergraduate Public Policy Competition present their policy papers on the challenges of the U.S. health sector.

07.05.16 American students from the Moscow Intern Program tour a Russian company that produces spacesuits.

08.27.16 The 2016 student participants of the Summer in D.C. Internship Program gather on the steps of the Baker Institute.

11.01.16 The Baker Institute Student Forum hosts its annual fall policy debate between the Rice College Republicans and the Rice Young Democrats.

04.13.17 During a visit to the Baker Institute, Russian students from the Moscow Summer Intern Program meet Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise.
The fiscal year of Rice University’s Baker Institute corresponds to that of the university, running from July 1 to June 30. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, the Baker Institute received $11.35 million in revenue and spent $10.29 million.

Distributed earnings from the Baker Institute’s endowment and current use gifts from supporters constituted the two largest sources of revenue during the year. Revenue from research grants increased to $2.3 million — 20 percent of total revenue. University support remained unchanged, representing less than 1 percent of overall funding.

Nearly 80 percent of all institute expenditures directly fund the institute’s policy research programs through fellow and scholar salaries, research costs, event expenses and special projects. The remaining expenses consist of operating costs, including management and administrative staff salaries; communications, marketing and fundraising expenses; and building maintenance costs, equipment purchases and general supplies.

In fiscal year 2018, the institute will continue to pursue sustainable endowment funding for programs supported by current use funds. New endowments provide financial security for institute centers and programs to develop new initiatives and expand research capacity in key policy areas.

### Baker Institute Endowment History (Fiscal Years 2010–2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Market Value*</th>
<th>Earnings Distributed</th>
<th>New Contributions to Endowments</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$ 60.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>$ 78.16</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>$ 81.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$ 88.69</td>
<td>$ 3.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$ 101.09</td>
<td>$ 3.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$ 104.24</td>
<td>$ 4.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$ 99.12</td>
<td>$ 4.53</td>
<td>$ 3.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As of June 30 of the previous fiscal year

05.10.17 A generous $3 million gift from the Glassell Family Foundation, led by Houston philanthropist Alfred C. Glassell, III, endowed Katharine Neill Harris as a fellow in drug policy. Pictured from left are Drug Policy Program Director William Martin, Neill Harris, Ambassador Edward Djerejian, Glassell, and Glassell Family Foundation treasurer Pam Lindberg.
### Income Statement — Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017)

*(in millions of U.S. dollars)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>$ 11.35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker Institute Endowment Distribution</td>
<td>$ 4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Use Gifts from Supporters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice University Funds</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>$ 10.29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Programs and Grants</td>
<td>$ 8.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development, Public Affairs, Communication and Administration</td>
<td>$ 2.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Income — Fiscal Year 2017**

$ 1.06

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**Revenue — Fiscal Year 2017**

*(in millions of U.S. dollars)*

*Total: $ 11.35*

- Baker Institute Endowment Distribution: $ 4.53 (40%)
- Current Use Gifts from Supporters: $ 4.42 (39%)
- Research Grants: $ 2.30 (20%)
- Rice University Funds: $ 0.10 (1%)

**Expenses — Fiscal Year 2017**

*(in millions of U.S. dollars)*

*Total: $ 10.29*

- Research Programs and Grants: $ 8.03 (78%)
- Development, Public Affairs, Communication and Administration: $ 2.26 (22%)
The board of advisors is dedicated to supporting and expanding the research and public policy goals of the Baker Institute. Board members provide a valuable external perspective and sounding board for institute leadership and policy fellows, and increase the Baker Institute’s visibility with their support of its nonpartisan policy research and recommendations.

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10.20.16 From left, Robert B. Tudor III; the Honorable James A. Baker, III; Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian; Steven L. Miller, chair of the Baker Institute Board of Advisors; Clarence P. Cazalot Jr., chair of the Program and Development Committee; and Marc J. Shapiro, chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, attend the board’s fall meeting.
04.06.17  Christopher Smith is introduced as the inaugural Baker Institute Advisory Board Fellow in Energy Studies during the institute’s spring board of advisors meeting.

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11.08.16 Attendees watch the results roll in at the election night watch party, hosted by the Roundtable and Roundtable Young Professionals.
09.13.16  Mexico Center director Tony Payan chats with Roundtable members before his presentation on immigration and the proposed border wall.

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The Mexico Forum, the membership base of the Mexico Center, is supported by corporate and individual members who participate in workshops and research events. The Mexico Center provides research–based recommendations to decision-makers on both sides of the border and is dedicated to developing practical approaches to key policy issues that affect the U.S.–Mexico relationship.

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12.02.16  Linda A. Capuano (left), fellow in energy technology, and Michael D. Maher (center), senior program advisor for the Center for Energy Studies, talk to a guest at the Houston Energy Breakfast hosted by K Carpenter Associates.
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10.06.16  From left, Roundtable members Beth Robertson and Cullen Geiselman chat with Rice University Provost Marie Lynn Miranda at the annual Fall Reception.

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10.21.16 High school students meet with Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences, before her lecture on developing relevant science policies.
Mark P. Jones analyzes the 2016 presidential race at a Roundtable Young Professionals happy hour.

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10.06.16  Space policy fellow George Abbey discusses his current research with members Ted and Melza Barr at the annual Fall Reception.
05.15.17  Author Philip Caputo greets guests before a reading of his latest book, “Some Rise by Sin,” at the Brazos Bookstore. The event was hosted by the Roundtable Young Professionals.

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11.02.16 Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler (in black jacket), talks to a guest about the military’s impact on his writing at a special Roundtable Young Professionals Veterans Day event.

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Mr. Drew Sims
Mr. Steven Smith
Ms. Dennetta Starks
Mr. Khaled Sulaiti
Ms. Hasti Taghi
Ms. Melody T. Tan
03.29.17  Author Ben Fountain (left) discusses the movie based on his novel “Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk.” The film was screened at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in collaboration with the RYP.

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