

INSIDE NEWS

from the President

July 2025

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Riley Gaines & Harmeet Dhillon Headline Our Largest-Ever Summit for Young Women



Riley Gaines joins Summit attendees, inspiring them to become strong conservative leaders.

More than **120** young women from **26** states gathered in the heart of Washington, DC, for the Luce Center's largest-ever summit, our 29th annual Washington, DC Summit, on July 11. Hosted at the historic Capitol Hill Club, this year's Summit brought together students, interns, and young professionals to hear from six trailblazing women at the forefront of culture, media, and policy.



Gaines speaks about the importance of standing for truth, then connects with students one-on-one to encourage bold, principled leadership.

Riley Gaines, a 12-time All-American swimmer who gained national attention after speaking out about competing against a male athlete in women's collegiate swimming, encouraged young women to stand firm in their convictions. "They want you to think you're alone—but you're not," she said, drawing from her own experience of being ridiculed and criticized for telling the truth.

Throughout her remarks, she challenged attendees to speak boldly and lead with integrity in a culture that often rewards conformity to the woke agenda.



Attendees included interns and staff members in the following offices:

- Senator **Rick Scott** (FL)
- Senator **Eric Schmitt** (MO)
- Senator **Charles Grassley** (IA)
- Senator **John Hoeven** (ND)
- Senator **Markwayne Mullin** (OK)
- Congresswoman **Elizabeth Van Dwyne** (TX)
- Congresswoman **Mariannette Miller-Meeks** (IA)
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- Congressman **Scott DesJarlais** (TN)
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- Congressman **John Joyce** (PA)
- Majority Whip **Tom Emmer** (IN)
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- **Media Research Center**
- **Judicial Watch**
- **Young Women for America**
- **Leadership Institute**
- **ADF International**
- **National Right to Life**
- **Concerned Women for America**
- **Conservative Partnership Institute**
- **HSP Direct**
- **Association of National Advertisers**
- **Scott Circle Communications**
- **Competitive Enterprise Institute**
- **American Legislative Exchange Council**
- **Pacific Legal Foundation**
- **Independent Women's Forum**
- **The Daily Caller**
- **The Daily Signal**
- **First Things**

Harmeet Dhillon, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division of the **U.S. Department of Justice**, shared her journey from India to becoming one of the top legal minds in America, urging attendees to step into leadership with boldness: “America is a place where anybody can become anything, and you need to take advantage of that.” She continued, “It is possible to build a career that reflects your deepest values – but it won’t happen by accident, and it isn’t easy.” Her message challenged attendees to pursue not just professional success, but a life of purpose rooted in courage and conservative principles.



***Harmeet Dhillon** meets with young women after sharing lessons from her remarkable career advancing freedom as a constitutional attorney.*

Mary Margaret Olohan, White House correspondent for *The Daily Wire*, spoke about her path from being homeschooled to covering the nation’s highest office—encouraging young women to embrace hard work and live their faith in a culture that often resists both. She described the challenges of reporting on abortion and gender ideology in a media landscape hostile to dissent, emphasizing the power of honest storytelling to change hearts and minds. Speaking with passion and purpose, she urged attendees to live boldly: “The truth will set you free—and that’s what our job here is.” She also reminded them that their twenties are the time to hustle—to work hard, take risks, and build the habits and courage that shape a meaningful life and career.



***Mary Margaret Olohan** offers encouragement and insight from her work as a journalist in the White House Briefing Room.*



KT McFarland delivers a powerful message on America's global leadership and connects with students to encourage the next generation of bold, trailblazing women.

KT McFarland, foreign policy expert and former deputy national security advisor in the Trump administration, pointed to the legacy of **Clare Boothe Luce**: "She was a trailblazer before anyone knew there was a trail to blaze," and delivered an energizing address on America's global strength and the vital role young conservative women play in shaping the nation's future.

She encouraged attendees to lead boldly, reminding them "Be smarter, better, and harder working than anybody else. Don't expect a darn thing."



Emily Jashinsky challenges attendees to see through media distortion and think critically in a digital age shaped by algorithms and ideology.

Emily Jashinsky, host of *After Party* on Megyn Kelly's MK Media network, challenged attendees to rethink their relationship with media in an era defined by algorithm-driven platforms and ideological silos. She warned that technology isn't just changing how we communicate, but also what we communicate.

"Media is really everything... That is our primary window into public affairs. And it is all cracked and it is all smudged." Her call to action was clear: be vigilant, be skeptical, and take responsibility for curating your own informed, truthful perspective in a media landscape built to manipulate.

Paula Scanlan, women's sports advocate and former NCAA swimmer and teammate of Will "Lia" Thomas, encouraged attendees to trust their instincts, even when others try to distort reality or pressure them into silence. She urged the young women to have the courage to speak up when something feels wrong, warning that passivity in the face of injustice allows it to persist. Above all, she challenged them to stay rooted in their convictions, even when it's uncomfortable, declaring, "If you do not stand up for your beliefs, why even have them?" She added, "Being true to who you are is better than being part of a crowd that you don't believe in," and reminded them, "If I'm silent, I am part of the problem."



Paula Scanlan challenges young women to reject dangerous woke ideology and stand for truth, reminding them that real change begins when one person has the courage to speak up.

Attendees came from colleges and universities across the country, including:

- University of Arizona (AZ)
- Arizona State University (AZ)
- Biola University (CA)
- Cal-Poly (CA)
- Thomas Aquinas College (CA)
- The Master's University (CA)
- University of San Diego (CA)
- Yuba College (CA)
- Yale University (CT)
- University of Florida (FL)
- Florida State University (FL)
- Miami University (FL)
- St. Leo University (FL)
- Georgia College and State University (GA)
- Emory and Henry University (GA)
- Drake University (IA)
- Iowa State University (IA)
- University of Notre Dame (IN)
- Benedictine College (KS)
- Harvard University (MA)
- Mount St. Mary's University (MD)
- Albion College (MI)
- Hillsdale College (MI)
- Mississippi State University (MS)
- Missouri University of Science and Technology (MO)
- Thomas More College (NH)
- Princeton University (NJ)
- Seton Hall University (NJ)
- Queens College (NY)
- Campbell University (NC)
- Coastal Carolina University (NC)
- High Point University (NC)
- Wake Forest University (NC)
- North Dakota State University (ND)
- Cedarville University (OH)
- Bucknell University (PA)
- Grove City College (PA)
- Muhlenberg College (PA)
- Villanova University (PA)
- University of Tennessee Knoxville (TN)
- Vanderbilt University (PA)
- Baylor University (TX)
- Texas A&M University (TX)
- Texas Tech University (TX)
- University of Dallas (TX)
- Christendom College (VA)
- James Madison University (VA)
- Patrick Henry College (VA)
- Liberty University (VA)
- Virginia Tech (VA)
- Washington and Lee University (VA)
- Georgetown University (DC)
- Northland Christian University (WI)
- University of Wyoming (WY)
- Wyoming Catholic College (WY)

When asked about their experiences, attendees commented:

- Truly unlike anywhere else.” **Gabriella Nerger, Marquette University, Intern for Congressman Scott Fitzgerald (WI)**
- “I LOVE CBL! The organization changed my life and I hope I can connect other girls so they have the same experience.” **Isela Beccera, Biola University, Heritage Foundation intern**
- “I think it was a great space for conservative women to be empowered in their beliefs.” **Chandler Cook, Liberty University, Competitive Enterprise Institute intern**
- “It’s just such a great environment to be in with like-minded women and to hear about how to live faithfully and with grace in today’s political climate as a young conservative woman.” **Charlotte Rhodes, James Madison University**

As they return to campuses and workplaces across the country, these young women carry with them a renewed sense of purpose—and the inspiration to live it out.



Young women from across the country engage with leaders and peers in the heart of our nation's capital.

Inside the Media's Coverage of Our DC Summit



Renewed optimism in America draws young conservatives to DC to join Trump's 'Golden Age' movement

Gen Z is redefining what it means to be conservative an American with an energetic, bold, and confident vision for the country that is unapologetically on the rise.



Campus Reform covers our Washington, DC Summit, observing that our young women are “redefining” conservatism with an “energetic, bold, and confident vision for the country.”

This year's Washington, DC Summit attracted national media attention. **Campus Reform** and **UnHerd**, sent reporters to attend our event, resulting in stories highlighting the growing influence of young conservative women in American public life.

Campus Reform captured the energy of the Summit in a piece titled “Renewed optimism in America draws young conservatives to DC to join Trump's ‘Golden Age’ movement.”

After spending the day listening to our speakers and talking with our young women attendees, reporter **Emily Sturge** observed:

“Gen Z is redefining what it means to be conservative with an energetic, bold, and confident vision for the country that is unapologetically on the rise.”

The article featured several of our summer interns:

*There are so many young people who are here in D.C. and hungry to work,” said **Emilie Santoso**, a student at **Hillsdale College** interning for the **Clare Boothe Luce (CBL) Center** this summer. “There’s so much passion and hungriness among young people for political reform.” . . .*

Another attendee said she’s noticed a surge in “confidence” among young conservatives with President Trump back in office, fueling their desire to get involved in the [conservative] movement.

*“With President Trump, we have the opportunity not to be dismissed, but to be heard. We have the opportunity to have more of a voice and not to be discounted, and we really want to take that, especially after facing culture wars and being on the defensive for so many years,” said **Anastasia Leffas**, a student at **Benedictine College** and CBL intern.*

“We’re confident in ourselves. We care about people, we care about thriving, we care about America, and we’re proud to be American,” Leffas said.

Some young professionals even fled blue states to join this conservative movement, making friendships and lifelong connections along the way.

***Daniela Villavicencio**, a student at **Queens College**, left New York City for Washington to intern with CBL this summer. What she found was an unwavering community of young conservatives like her.*

“It is really breathtaking how many conservatives I’ve found here that have the same moral beliefs as me. I have like one or two people who are conservative in New York City, but there’s not a network like there is in D.C. Coming here has been a breath of fresh air,” Villavicencio said.

UnHerd offered its own perspective in an article titled “Meet the New MAGA Girlies: They Want Prams and Power.” Reporter **Lily Isaacs** wrote:

In the sift-wooded hush of Washington, D.C.’s Capitol Hill Club, America’s daughters were assembling... The Clare Boothe Luce Center’s annual leadership conference for young women promises to nurture “strong conservative leaders” and help “young women flourish... while strengthening their families, communities, and country.” With more than 120 there, this was its biggest gathering yet.

Yet despite these moments, much of Isaacs’ attention was fixated not on the ideas our speakers shared or the substance of the conversations unfolding—but on the way our attendees looked. She described the young women’s makeup, manicures, and outfits in vivid detail, repeatedly framing femininity as a performance rather than a personal expression of confidence, professionalism, or joy. At one point, she remarked, “Nearly every girl was dressed as if she was about to meet a senator, or marry one,” and described herself as looking “like the Senate librarian.”

She went so far as to suggest that appearance was a central theme of the conference, writing that attendees were encouraged to “work harder and look better,” and implying that looking good was a key takeaway. It was not. In fact, no speaker gave appearance-related advice, nor was it a focus of any session.

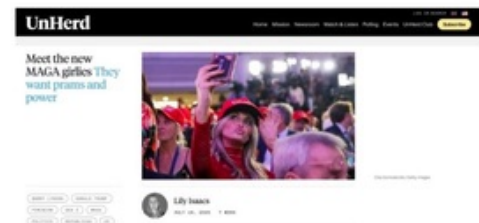
The article also contained multiple factual errors, which we asked the editors to retract in a formal letter. We encouraged them to review the full remarks of our speakers on our YouTube channel @cblwomen to see the truth for themselves. They declined to issue any corrections.

A veteran journalist whose daughter attended the Summit also wrote to *UnHerd* to express her concern. Citing her more than thirty years in journalism, she called the article “a piece that reads more like a cynical diary entry than reporting.” She identified serious ethical and editorial failures, beginning with Isaacs’ decision to attend without disclosing she was a journalist—a “basic breach of ethical practice,” she wrote, particularly at a private event hosted by a nonprofit. That the reporter was welcomed anyway, she added, “is irrelevant.”

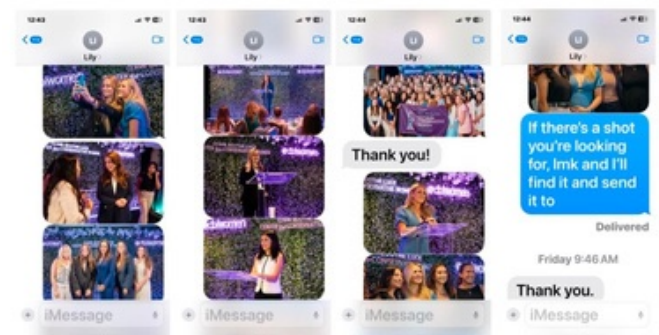
She noted that Isaacs fixated on aesthetics, social awkwardness, and perceived contradictions rather than the real substance. She concluded with a challenge to *UnHerd*: “Snark is easy. Real journalism requires something harder: curiosity, fairness, and the ability to take people seriously even when you disagree with them... I would like to see both Lily and *UnHerd* succeed, but on the strength of the work, not at the expense of it.”

An editor responded by affirming both leftist bias and reliance on clickbait tactics. “The headline and picture might give that impression, but they weren’t chosen by Lily, and it’s quite common at *UnHerd* to have a more provocative headline and pic, leading into a well-considered and thoughtful piece,” he wrote.

The clickbait headline, *Meet the New MAGA Girlies*, and accompanying image not from our event of a woman wearing a MAGA hat, taking a selfie, lips pursed, are grossly misleading.



UnHerd had the opportunity to use the following images that we provided to Isaacs on July 17, two days before the article was published:



President **Kimberly Begg** alerted *UnHerd*’s editors to troubling factual errors and misleading choices that suggest an effort to misrepresent our event.

For our interns, the article served as a revealing case study in how media narratives are shaped—and how easily they can distort reality.



Ann Rodgers introduces **Emily Jashinsky** at our Washington, DC Summit.

Ann Rodgers, a journalism major at the **University of Florida** who attended the Summit as part of our 2025 summer intern class, reflected:

Reading that made me understand how much the media can twist words to mean what they want and how often things are taken out of context and used against people. It showed me how important pushing back with the truth is.

The media's interest in our event shows that our message is reaching new audiences—and that the growing influence of our young leaders can't be overlooked.

As President's Club member **Cathy Ruse** observed, "If they're attacking you, you're doing something right."

*If you would like to receive a copy of our letter to UnHerd, please contact **Kimberly Begg** or **Catherine Hendershott** at 703-318-0730, chendershott@cblwomen.org, or kimberly@cblwomen.org.*

Make a Will, Make an Impact

August is National-Make-a-Will Month

August is National Make-A-Will Month, when thousands of Americans will make or update a will to protect the people and causes they care about.

*Want to know more? Our president, **Kimberly Begg**, would be delighted to help you. Contact her at 703-318-0730 or kimberly@cblwomen.org.*

*Ready to get started? Ask Kimberly for the name of a trusted attorney in your area or use our **free, online tool to make a legal will** at freewill.com/cblwomen.*

*If you decide to include the Luce Center in your will, please tell us so we can thank you and enroll you in the **Luce Legacy Society**!*



 *Clare Boothe Luce*
CENTER for CONSERVATIVE WOMEN
freewill.com/cblwomen

From Washington to the World: Interns Visit the United Nations in New York City

Just two days after the Washington, DC Summit, our interns boarded a train to **New York City** for a front-row seat to international diplomacy at the **United Nations**. Thanks to the **Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam)**—a pro-life policy organization defending human dignity on the global stage—the interns attended the UN’s High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.

But rather than advancing a noble cause, the forum revealed a deeply ideological agenda. Delegates spoke of “redistributing unpaid care labor” and urged the removal of “gendered” words like fearless from job descriptions—language designed to redefine motherhood, deconstruct femininity, and regulate speech in service of a radical worldview.

One of the forum’s most revealing moments came when a trans-identifying youth from Thailand took the floor to denounce countries that recognize only two genders. “Gender equality cannot be achieved when LGBT people are left behind,” the speaker declared, prompting enthusiastic applause from nearly every delegate in the room.

Our interns received a guided tour of the United Nations and participated in private meetings with His Excellency **Zephyrin Maniratanga**, ambassador of **Burundi** to the UN, and Mr. **Youssef Aden Moussa**, Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of **Djibouti**. These candid conversations explored diplomacy, global governance, and the critical need for principled leadership on the world stage.

Reflecting on her experience, **Virginia Fehrer**, a rising senior at **Virginia Tech**, asked, “Why does the world let the UN set the tone?” **Emilie Santoso**, a rising junior at **Hillsdale College**, reflected, “It’s really disheartening that a biological man is a good representation of a woman to these people.”



*Interns meet with **Youssef Aden Moussa**, counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Djibouti.*



Our young women visit the United Nations for a front-row seat to global diplomacy.



*(Left) Interns take in the energy of New York City in between meetings at the UN. (Middle) **Emilie Santoso**, a rising junior at **Hillsdale College**, meets with His Excellency **Zephyrin Maniratanga**, ambassador of **Burundi** to the UN. (Right) **Anastasia Leffas**, a rising senior at **Benedictine College**, views the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.*

Unwoking the UN: Austin Ruse Speaks at a Special Event for our Interns and President's Club Members



(Left to Right) **Austin Ruse**, **Jenny Ryan** (*Muhlenberg College*), **Emilie Santoso** (*Hillsdale College*), **Fiona Williamson** (*Christendom College*), Presidents Club members **Barbara Coward** and **John Hibel**, and **Daniela Villavicencio** (*Queens College*) enjoy an evening of conservative camaraderie.

The Luce Center hosted a special event for our interns and President's Club members—an inspiring evening featuring **Center for Family and Human Rights** president **Austin Ruse**. Generously sponsored by **Nick and Sonja DeCarlo**, the event offered a riveting look inside the workings of the United Nations. In his talk, “Unwoking the UN: How a Ragtag Band of Christians Stopped a Global Right to Abortion...and Much Else,” Ruse drew on more than two decades of firsthand experience advancing traditional American values on the world stage.

Ruse's message revealed the ideological battles shaping debates within international power structures, citing efforts to impose gender ideology, redefine the family, and erode national sovereignty in favor of a homogenized international order. “There is an ideology in charge, more powerful than any single member state,” he said. “But more than an ideology, there is a system at work—and it goes by the name of empire.”

He spoke about the courage it takes for diplomats—particularly those from smaller, poorer nations—to push back against the coercion of wealthier, more powerful countries. His reflections on faith, public policy, and the battle for cultural integrity resonated deeply with the audience. “There are halos hanging from the lowest branches of the trees,” he said. “You can do anything on any issue that you want, and you're gonna make the world a better place.”

That message resonated deeply with our interns who had just returned from a visit to the United Nations—where they witnessed some of these dynamics firsthand. During Q&A, Luce Center intern **Anastasia Leffas** reflected on their private meeting with the ambassador of **Burundi**: “He told us, ‘You keep your money, we’ll keep our dignity.’”

The event was a highlight of our summer calendar, filled with meaningful conversation and camaraderie.



(Clockwise from top left) Ruse welcomes Christendom College board member **Tom West** to the Center; first-time guests engage in conversation; a full capacity audience applauds Ruse; interns, President's Club members, and guests enjoy Virginia wines, light fare, and camaraderie with like-minded friends.

Clare Morell Proposes a Childhood without Screens

The Luce Center hosted a standing-room-only event featuring **Clare Morell**, fellow at the **Ethics and Public Policy Center** and director of the Technology and Human Flourishing Project. Morell presented key insights from her new book, *The Tech Exit*, in a talk covered by **C-SPAN** that explored how young people can reclaim their time, attention, and purpose in a digital age.

Morell explained how constant digital engagement, especially among young people, can weaken attention spans, erode self-control, and lead to isolation.

Drawing from neuroscience and real-world stories, she warned: “A child's brain on social media is like all gas pedal and no brakes.” Her message challenged the assumption that more tech always means better preparation for the future—in fact, she argued, it may hinder the formation of strong, real-world relationships and habits.

A highlight of her talk was the introduction of the FEAST framework—an actionable guide for families aiming to cut screen time. Each step offers practical, real-world advice:

Find: connect with other like-minded families who also prioritize limited tech use.

Explain, Educate, and Model: help children understand the “why” behind tech boundaries and consistently model the lifestyle yourself.

Adopt alternatives—like switching to “dumb” phones or offline devices.

Set up accountability systems at home, ensuring the whole family stays on track.

Trade: swap screen time for real responsibilities and meaningful, hands-on activities.



Clare Morell speaks to a standing-room-only audience at the Luce Center.



Morell encourages our interns to take back their time, attention, and purpose from today's tech-driven culture.



Morell signs copies of her book for attendees eager to continue the conversation on technology and human flourishing.

Morell revealed a deeper cultural challenge at work, “Smartphones and social media are not designed to be used responsibly. They're designed to overpower our self-control.”

Her message resonated across generations. After the talk, Morell signed copies of *The Tech Exit* for guests eager to learn more.

Over lunch, attendees shared how deeply the talk struck them, with many expressing interest in using *The Tech Exit* as a resource for their families. Younger guests left with concrete strategies—including our own interns, several of whom committed to a social media cleanse.

One week later, **Anastasia Shanahan**, a senior at **Thomas More College**, reported, “I have not scrolled on Instagram since.” Another intern, **Mercedes Skidd**, a junior at the **University of Dallas**, reflected, “The event was shockingly insightful and left me introspecting on my tech choices in what I hope will lead to decisively impactful changes in my own life.”

Dollars and Sense: Interns Build Financial Confidence and Money Management Skills



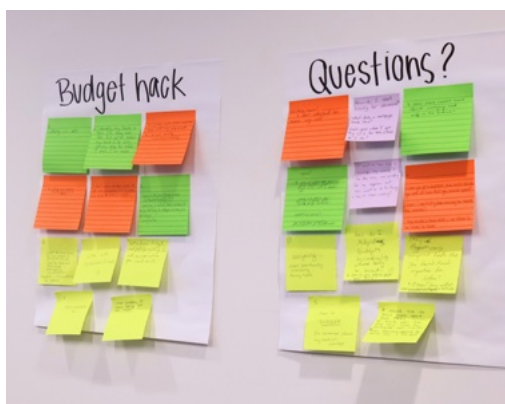
Interns gather with financial coaches **Kerry and Kady Bedard** and President **Kimberly Begg** following the Luce Center's first-ever Dollars and Sense seminar—an empowering workshop on building strong, values-driven money habits.

Our summer interns—joined by **Heritage Foundation** intern **Macy Brookhouser**—participated in our first-ever *Dollars and Sense* seminar. Led by financial coach **Kerry Bedard** and her daughter, **2022 Luce intern Kady Bedard**, the session equipped our young women with practical tools for managing their finances wisely.

The workshop focused on five essential areas—earning, spending, saving, investing, and donating—offering real-life strategies tailored to young women launching their careers. Interns reflected on early money habits, shared budgeting tips, and worked through financial concepts in small-group breakouts. Hands-on exercises in budget building and Excel spreadsheet creation gave the young women practical skills they can utilize in college and beyond.

“Learning how to properly manage my money as a college student has made me think about the world differently,” said **Jenny Ryan**, a rising junior at **Muhlenberg College**. “Money management used to feel overwhelming, but after hearing from Kerry and Kady, I feel like I am more prepared for my future.”

Interns walked away with greater financial confidence and a deeper understanding of how to build strong, values-driven money habits.



(Left) Kerry and Kady Bedard speak with intern **Anastasia Shanahan**, a rising senior at Thomas More College, offering practical tools for budgeting, saving, and investing with purpose. (Middle) A hands-on exercise board from the Dollars and Sense seminar captures the energy of the day, filled with intern-submitted budgeting tips, financial questions, and practical “hacks” for money management. (Right) Heritage Foundation intern Macy Brookhouser takes notes during the seminar.

DOGE HR Insider Stephanie Holmes Urges Interns to Reject Woke Ideologies



Stephanie Holmes meets with interns after a candid conversation about principled leadership in the workplace.

Our summer interns and **For America** intern **Reagan DeLuca** gathered for an empowering session with **Stephanie Holmes**—labor and employment attorney, founder of BrighterSide HR, and recent human resources lead for **Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)**. Although she couldn’t speak in detail about her confidential role with DOGE, Holmes drew on her early career at Jones Day and her work at BrighterSide HR to offer compelling insights.

She challenged prevailing DEI narratives, urging the interns to prioritize ideological diversity over superficial traits and to ground their careers in courage, integrity, and truth. As she put it, “Sometimes the best experiences we’ll ever have are just on the other side of fear.”

Anastasia Shanahan, a rising senior at **Thomas More College**, reflected, “Stephanie’s dedication, consistency, and courage really stuck with me.”

Xi Van Fleet Warns Interns of America’s Cultural Revolution—and Signs Copies of Mao’s America

The Luce Center welcomed **Xi Van Fleet**, author of the bestselling *Mao’s America: A Survivor’s Warning*, for a memorable visit with our summer interns.

A survivor of Mao’s Cultural Revolution, Van Fleet later escaped communism and built a life of freedom in the United States—only to recognize troubling similarities between the Marxist revolution of her youth and the ideological movement overtaking American culture today.

In *Mao’s America*, Van Fleet draws striking parallels between Mao’s China and modern America, highlighting Marxist tactics like ideological division, indoctrination, youth radicalization, and the erasure of traditional culture.

Thanks to a generous gift from a President’s Club member in **Hickory, North Carolina**, each intern received a signed copy of *Mao’s America*. We look forward to welcoming Van Fleet back to discuss her next book, *Made in America: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Enabled Communist China and Created Our Greatest Threat*, which will be released in 2026.



Xi Van Fleet visits with Luce Center interns after signing copies of *Mao’s America*, a bestselling account of her experience under Mao’s regime and the parallels she sees in America today.

Interns Practice Marksmanship During NRA Firearms Training Day



(Left) Summer interns train at the NRA range, gaining firsthand experience with a variety of firearms under expert supervision. (Right) **Fiona Williamson**, a rising junior at **Christendom College**, and **Daniela Villavicencio**, a rising senior at **Queens College**, proudly display their targets after a successful round of shooting and skill-building.

Our summer interns spent a powerful day training at the **National Rifle Association** (NRA) headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia—an annual highlight that equips them with the knowledge, confidence, and responsibility to become effective Second Amendment advocates. We are deeply grateful to President’s Club members **Hib and Sandy Halverson** for sponsoring this amazing opportunity for our interns!

The day began with classroom instruction from NRA-certified trainers, followed by hands-on practice at the range. Interns had the opportunity to handle and fire a variety of firearms, including revolvers, pistols, and AR-15s. A spirited relay game brought energy and friendly competition, allowing the young women to apply their new skills in a controlled environment.

Some interns came with previous shooting experience, while others were entirely new to firearms. All walked away with greater confidence and a deeper appreciation for the freedoms protected by the Second Amendment. “By the end of our visit, we felt more capable and patriotic than ever before!” said **Lucy Ruse**, a sophomore at the **University of Dallas**.



(Left) **Lucy Ruse**, a rising sophomore at the **University of Dallas**, takes aim during live-fire training at the NRA range, captured mid-shot with a visible spark from her firearm. (Right) Interns enjoy a moment of camaraderie during NRA training—building confidence, sharpening skills, and celebrating their Second Amendment freedoms together.

Every Word Matters: Emily Jashinsky Teaches Interns to Build a Strong Argument



Emily Jashinsky meets with our interns for a hands-on journalism seminar focused on the power of careful argument.

Our interns learned the craft of impactful journalism from one of the conservative movement's most respected media voices: **Emily Jashinsky**, host of *After Party* on **Megyn Kelly's** MK Media network and member of the **Luce Center Advisory Board**. Jashinsky led an insightful seminar rooted in her years of experience reporting and shaping opinion content in leading media outlets. She emphasized that effective writing begins with purposeful reading and a disciplined process—one that values clarity, simplicity, and ensuring every sentence supports the main argument.

Ann Rogers, a journalism major at the **University of Florida**, reflected, “Emily opened my eyes to the importance of writing with a consistent purpose. What really stood out to me was her emphasis on making sure every word and sentence supports your main message. It made me realize that good writing is both intentional and driven by passion.”

Career Readiness Workshop Equips Young Women for Strong Conservative Leadership



*(Left) YAF's **Jessica Jensen** and **Kelleigh Clarke** lead a high-impact career readiness workshop. (Right) Jensen provides personalized advice to **Daniela Villavicencio**, a rising senior at **Queens College**, on her résumé.*

Our interns, joined by **Concerned Women for America** intern **Anika Bebb**, participated in a dynamic career workshop led by **Young America's Foundation** Chief Operating Officer **Jessica Jensen** and Assistant to the President **Kelleigh Clarke**. Drawing from their own professional journeys, the speakers offered practical strategies for standing out in a competitive job market, without compromising values.

Interns received actionable advice on everything from writing strong résumés and navigating interviews to handling feedback, networking intentionally, and fulfilling family and professional responsibilities. “The facilitators were accomplished, kind, and well-spoken,” said Bebb. “They inspired me to make immediate improvements.”

Bridging Generations Through Art: Interns and Supporters Share a Powerful Experience at the Kennedy Center



President's Club member **Richard Ryan** and his guest, Kira Blackwell, join our interns at the Kennedy Center after a moving performance of *Les Misérables*—a shared evening of beauty, reflection, and connection.

In a powerful blend of culture, beauty, and fellowship, Luce Center interns joined President's Club members for a special afternoon at the Kennedy Center to experience *Les Misérables*, **Victor Hugo's** epic story brought to life on stage. The performance's stirring themes of courage, justice, and redemption prompted thoughtful reflection and conversation.

"I don't think I've ever been so moved by a work of art," said **Anastasia Leffas**, a rising senior at **Benedictine College**. "That performance transformed me. I haven't stopped thinking about it."

Our young women expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to share the experience with generous men and women who help make their Luce Center experiences possible. Engaging in meaningful conversation with supporters added richness to the night, turning a cultural outing into a powerful reminder of the shared values and vision that fuel the conservative movement.

Interns Honor Service and Sacrifice at Arlington National Cemetery

Our summer interns visited **Arlington National Cemetery**, one of America's most solemn and sacred sites. Walking among rows of white headstones, and witnessing the reverent Changing of the Guard at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, they reflected on the service and sacrifice of those who gave their lives to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

Fiona Williamson, a rising junior at **Christendom College**, shared:



Luce Center interns visit **Arlington National Cemetery**, reflecting on the service and sacrifice of those who gave their lives to protect our freedom.

The respect and honor of the young guard standing at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was very moving. Wearing a full uniform in the blazing sun, he did not show any signs of discomfort, and it gave me hope for our generation.

The experience was a powerful reminder that the rights we often take for granted were purchased at great cost. By encountering the reality of that sacrifice up close, our young women developed a deeper sense of gratitude, reflection, and civic responsibility.

On a Personal NOTE

As we wrap up an extraordinary summer, I want to take a moment to thank you—our generous supporters—for making it all possible.

Because of you, we hosted our **largest-ever summit**—our Washington, DC Summit—with more than 120 young women in person and thousands more joining online. Your generosity made it possible for 45 of those young women to attend with full sponsorships—\$1,000 per participant—giving them the life-changing opportunity to hear from inspiring speakers, gain valuable insights, and connect with our nationwide network of conservative women leaders.



What an honor and joy it is to work alongside these 10 exceptional young women. We can't wait to see what they do next!

You also made possible our **largest-ever class of summer interns**: ten outstanding young women who are stepping boldly into the world as strong conservative leaders. Thanks to generous \$12,000 sponsorships from supporters across the country, each intern was fully funded by someone who believes deeply in our mission—and in their potential.

Virginia Fehrer, a rising senior at **Virginia Tech**, reflected on her internship experience:

I never could have imagined just how impactful my experience here would be. I have grown immensely in my ability to begin conversations about topics that are important to me and articulate my beliefs. I have grown in my desire to research what mass media pushes out rather than just believe it. Above all, I have realized that there are other women like me, who stand with me in our daily fight for freedom and truth. With the confidence I have gained from this internship, I feel more motivated than ever to be outspoken, standing up for my beliefs.

And we're not slowing down. In just a few weeks, we'll be sharing an opportunity to sponsor attendees of our upcoming **College Women's Summit**, taking place **October 10–12, 2025**, in **Scottsdale**, Arizona, with a \$1,500 sponsorship. This will be one of our most transformative programs of the year. **We would be honored to have patriotic conservatives help us reach our goal of sponsoring 90 young women to join us for a life-changing weekend of conservative education, inspiration, and camaraderie.**

We also look forward to welcoming **President's Club** members to the Summit for a beautiful, mission-focused weekend. To make attending easy, we've reserved a room block at the luxurious **Scottsdale Resort and Spa**—set against the breathtaking Sonoran Desert—and are assisting with transportation from the airport. We hope you'll consider joining us. **If you're even thinking about attending, please contact Catherine Hendershott at chendershott@cblwomen.org or 703-318-0730.** Catherine would love to hear from you. She's here to answer any questions and help ensure your experience is smooth, welcoming, and unforgettable. You should also feel free to call or email me at any time.

Thank you again for your support. Together, we are shaping the next generation of conservative women to be leaders who are principled, joyful, and courageous.

In Friendship & Freedom,

President