

# LUCE LADDER

*"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount."*

*From the President*

– Clare Boothe Luce

*July 2026*

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## Washington, DC Summit Highlights the Need for Strong Conservatives



(L) **Erika Donalds** challenges young women to build lives anchored by faith, hard work, and truth. (R) Luce Center summer interns attend the Summit as part of their leadership formation.

**More than 110 participants from 26 states** gathered in Washington, DC, for the Luce Center's annual Washington, DC Summit, held on June 26. Hosted on Capitol Hill, this year's 30th annual Summit brought together students, interns, and young professionals to hear from four trailblazing women at the forefront of culture, media, and policy: **Erika Donalds, Alex Clark, Reagan Reese, and Leah Campos.**

Erika Donalds, founder and chairman of OptimaEd and the wife of **Congressman Byron Donalds** (FL-19), challenged participants to become the kind of strong conservative women America needs. She shared how hard work and perseverance transformed her own life. At 14, she worked at McDonald's to help her mother pay the bills. Once "totally lost," with no one to encourage her or help her envision her future, she learned an enduring lesson: don't wait for someone else to give you permission to pursue the life God is calling you to live. **"It's okay to open the door for yourself," she told the audience. "It's okay to step out and take a risk."** She urged young women to pursue God's calling while keeping their highest priorities first, building lives marked by faithfulness, intentionality, and an unwavering commitment to truth.



Summit participants gather with **Alex Clark** after her talk challenging young women to reject despair, embrace hope, and become confident voices for truth in their generation.

Attendees included interns and staff members in the following offices:

- Senator **Marsha Blackburn** (TN)
- Senator **Julie Fedorchak** (ND)
- Congressman **Ken Calvert** (CA)
- Congressman **Juan Ciscomani** (AZ)
- Congressman **Jeff Van Drew** (NJ)
- Congressman **Warren Davidson** (OH)
- Congressman **Scott Fitzgerald** (WI)
- Congressman **Paul A. Gosar** (AZ)
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- Congressman **Darrell Issa** (CA)
- Congressman **Mike Kennedy** (UT)
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- Congresswoman **Celeste Maloy** (UT)
- Congressman **Chris Smith** (NJ)
- Congressman **David J. Taylor** (OH)
- Congressman **Daniel Webster** (FL)
- **Department of Education**
- **Heritage Foundation**
- **Young America's Foundation**
- **Media Research Center**
- **The Fund for American Studies**
- **The Leadership Institute**
- **Liberty Counsel**
- **Concerned Women for America**
- **American Principles Project**
- **Religious Freedom Institute**
- **Texas Public Policy Foundation**
- **Run with Saints**
- **Binnall Law Group**
- **Targeted Victory**
- **Renegade DC**
- **Navigators Global**
- **Human Rights in North Korea**
- **Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness**
- **Serving Life Chiropractic**
- **American Made Media Company**
- **Convergence Media**
- **AMAC News**
- **The Daily Signal**
- **The New York Times**



*Donalds (top) and Clark (bottom) encourage students and young professionals preparing to lead in Congress, the conservative movement, media, and public life.*

Alex Clark, host and creator of TPUSA's Culture Apothecary, urged young women to stand up for truth by sharing a powerful message: "Whether future generations inherit more freedom than we did is up to us," she said. **"We need women who will build, women who have the courage to reform institutions."**

Throughout her remarks, she emphasized to the young women in attendance that hope requires responsibility, and that responsibility begins with each one of them.

"Once a nation loses hope, it becomes vulnerable to almost anything." Identifying a recent trend in the conservative movement known as black-pilling, a term referring to abandoning hope on the grounds that change is impossible, Clark presented a courageous and important distinction: "There's a difference between exposing corruption and telling an entire generation this country is beyond saving."

Commenting on the rise of Gen Z's support for socialism, Clark voiced an important reality: "People embrace radical movements when they think nothing else works." She challenged participants not to underestimate the power of hope, explaining that when young people lose confidence in the future, destructive ideas become more appealing. But when they believe that truth, freedom, and faith can shape a better future, they are far more likely to reject false promises.



(L) **Reagan Reese** encourages young women to pursue excellence every day, reminding them that preparation opens the door to opportunity. (R) At just 26 years old, Hillsdale College graduate Reese (center) offers encouragement to current Hillsdale students (left to right) **Emilie Santoso** (Heritage Foundation intern and 2025 Luce Center intern) and 2026 summer interns **Catherine Mochen** and **Caroline Bonomo**.

**Reagan Reese**, White House correspondent for The Daily Caller and Luce Center Advisory Board member, reminded attendees that “access is not the finish line—it’s the starting line.” Drawing on experiences covering the White House, traveling aboard Air Force One, and interviewing President Trump, she explained that opportunities come to those who prepare for them long before they arrive. “You’re either prepared or you aren’t. There is no middle ground,” she said, encouraging young women not to wait until they feel ready before stepping forward. Instead, she challenged them to **pursue excellence every day, trusting that faithful preparation equips them for the opportunities God places before them, while remaining grounded in faith and the people they love.**



(L) Reese (right) interviews Ambassador **Leah Campos** (left) during a fireside conversation on leadership, service, and the unique opportunities available to young American women. (R) Ambassador Campos encourages two first-generation immigrants pursuing lives of leadership and public service in America: **Daniela Villavicencio** from **Ecuador** (Executive Office Assistant at Young America’s Foundation and 2025 Luce Center summer intern) and **Amira Hawat** from **Venezuela** (2026 Luce Center summer intern).

In a fireside conversation with Reese, **Leah Campos**, U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, reflected on her journey from growing up in a military family to serving in the CIA before President **Donald J. Trump** appointed her to her current diplomatic post. She emphasized that every season of life brings both unique joys and unique sacrifices. Having it all, she explained, doesn’t mean having it all at once. While each stage of her life shaped her, Ambassador Campos especially reflected on how motherhood made her more well-rounded and prepared her to lead the large team she oversees today.

Above all, Ambassador Campos encouraged attendees to embrace the freedom that comes with being American. “**People are going to criticize us for everything. As a young woman, you’re going to be confronted with a lot of options, and that’s a blessing we have as Americans.**”

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

- Auburn University (AL)
- Ave Maria University (FL)
- Baylor University (TX)
- Belmont Abbey College (NC)
- Benedictine College (KS)
- Brigham Young University (UT)
- California State University (CA)
- Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
- Christendom College (VA)
- Christopher Newport University (VA)
- College of the Ozarks (MO)
- Davidson College (NC)
- Franciscan University of Steubenville (OH)
- Georgetown University (DC)
- George Mason University (VA)
- Grand Canyon University (AZ)
- Grove City College (PA)
- Hanover College (IN)
- Hillsdale College (MI)
- Indiana Wesleyan University (IN)
- Liberty University (VA)
- Lipscomb University (TN)
- Loughborough University (UK)
- Marquette University (WI)
- Miami University (OH)
- New Mexico State University (NM)
- Ohio State University (OH)
- Pensacola Christian College (FL)
- Purdue University (IN)
- Shepherd University (WV)
- Syracuse University (NY)
- Texas A&M University (TX)
- Texas Tech University (TX)
- Thomas Aquinas College (CA)
- Thomas More College (NH)
- Tulane University (LA)
- University of Arizona (AZ)
- University of Chicago (IL)
- University of Dallas (TX)
- University of Mary (ND)
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (TX)
- University of Nevada (NV)
- University of Pittsburgh (PA)
- University of Tampa (FL)
- University of Tennessee (TN)
- University of Virginia (VA)
- University of West Georgia (GA)
- Vanderbilt University (TN)
- Virginia Tech (VA)
- Wake Forest University (NC)
- Yale College (CT)

When asked about their experiences, attendees commented:

- **“Awesome experience and great speakers!”** Laura James, Texas Tech University
- **“The speakers were really amazing and offered great insight into navigating politics as a conservative woman!”** Greer Reineke, University of Chicago
- **“I loved my experience with the Luce Center! Being surrounded by my peers who are passionate about restoring America and hearing from inspiring speakers has rejuvenated me to work diligently for a better world for my future children.”** Veronica Sellers, Hanover University
- **“The Luce Center is the best organization for women and their gifts!”** Mercedes Skidd, University of Dallas
- **“Women need to support women, and understand the true meaning of femininity and womanhood.”** Cecilia Hellmuth, Benedictine College
- **“It was amazing! The speakers were excellent and I love the conservative, family-friendly, professional atmosphere.”** Anna Sophia Cline, George Mason University
- **“The speakers were very informative and encouraging. The community was amazing!”** Jadyn Hoglan, Grand Canyon 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 campuses across the country gather at the Washington, DC Summit, ready to lead with confidence, conviction, and purpose.*



# Integrity in Journalism: Emily Jashinsky Leads Interns through the Media Landscape

Our interns gained an insider's perspective on the rapidly evolving media landscape with one of the most respected voices in journalism: **Emily Jashinsky**, host of *After Party* and member of the Luce Center Advisory Board.

Jashinsky led a thoughtful discussion on June 15 on the state of media in 2026 and the ways emerging platforms shape public discourse. She emphasized that with the growing number of news options, the goal of the media is no longer to spread truth but to secure loyalty.



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

We are grateful for the generosity of friends in Tulsa, Oklahoma, who sponsored this inspiring experience. As new mediums increasingly shape how messages are received, interpreted, and amplified, honesty and integrity are needed now more than ever in journalism. In an era defined by speed, fragmentation, and vicious competition for attention, Jashinsky challenged interns to remain clear, credible, and purposeful communicators.

## Learning the Art of Gracious Hospitality



*(L) Interns practice the art of dining and hospitality during the Luce Center's summer etiquette seminar. (M) **Stacie Husmann** (right) equips interns with timeless skills of hospitality, confidence, and gracious leadership. (R) (Left to Right) President's Club member **Sonja DeCarlo**, Chief of Staff **Lauren Husmann**, Stacie Husmann, and Program Director **Nicole Gillis** invest in the next generation of conservative women leaders.*

The ability to make others feel welcome is a mark of both leadership and character. During the first of this summer's etiquette seminars on June 2, our interns learned the timeless skills of dining, hosting, and gracious conversation under the guidance of **Stacie Husmann**. Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on practice, our young women learned proper table etiquette, guest engagement, and the thoughtful details that transform a meal into an act of genuine hospitality. They discovered that etiquette is not about rigid rules or social status, but about putting others at ease, showing respect, and serving with confidence and grace.

These lessons prepare our interns to welcome guests into their homes, represent their organizations at business meals, and host family celebrations with confidence, grace, and genuine hospitality throughout their lives. In doing so, they will help **preserve the traditions of hospitality that strengthen families and communities and are passed from one generation to the next**. We are grateful to our good friend, Mary Lu Clark, for sponsoring this important experience.

# Seeking Truth in an Age of Clickbait Journalism: Amber Duke explains how “elite clickbait” shapes public opinion through narrative and framing



(Left) **Amber Duke** addresses attendees at the Luce Center, exposing the calculated rhetoric of the left. (Right) Luce Center Intern, **Amira Hawat**, a rising junior at **Lipscomb University**, considers Duke's perspective on the media landscape.

The Luce Center welcomed **Amber Duke**, Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Caller, on June 12 for “Seeking Truth in an Age of Clickbait Journalism.” The timely discussion brought together young professionals, supporters, and guests to examine today's media landscape and the importance of honest reporting.

Having **first connected with the Luce Center as a Georgetown University student while organizing a Luce Center lecture featuring Christina Hoff Sommers**—a program that drew resistance on campus—Duke returned as more than a speaker. She returned as a testament to the Luce Center's mission and an inspiration to a new generation of conservative women.

After graduating from Georgetown, Amber built a distinguished career in conservative journalism. She wrote for Campus Reform, served as Washington Editor of The Spectator, authored *The Snowflakes Revolt: How Woke Millennials Hijacked American Media*, and ultimately became Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Caller. Her time as the Daily Caller's White House correspondent gave her firsthand insight into how national news stories are covered and framed.

Drawing on those experiences, Duke argued that the media's most effective tactic is not sensational clickbait but persuading readers that the liberal conclusion is the only moral and compassionate one.



Duke gathers with Luce Center interns after her remarks, challenging our young women to courageously seek and speak truth to build a freer, more prosperous America.

## Truth Seeking vs. Narrative Building

Drawing on her years covering politics and the media, Duke argued that today's journalism often relies on a more subtle form of persuasion than traditional clickbait. Rather than simply attracting attention with sensational headlines, she said, many news stories encourage readers to adopt a particular moral conclusion before they have considered the facts. "They don't say, 'You won't believe what happened next,'" she explained. **"They say, 'Here is the only decent way to feel about what happened.'"**

According to Duke, this approach often frames liberal positions as moral and compassionate, while portraying conservative objections as dangerous and extreme. As a result, she argued, readers are frequently presented with an interpretive framework before they have an opportunity to evaluate the underlying facts for themselves.

To illustrate her point, Duke discussed the case of Karmelo Anthony, who was convicted of murdering fellow high school student Austin Metcalf at a Texas track meet. She argued that what could have been reported primarily as a tragic killing instead became a broader narrative about race and social injustice, one that, she said, relied in part on claims that were later shown to be false. Rather than viewing the coverage as an isolated example, Amber encouraged attendees to recognize what she believes is a broader pattern in the way many major news stories are framed.

## Simplicity Sells; Complexity Doesn't

Amber argued that many media outlets misinform not by inventing facts, but by omitting those that don't fit the narrative. To illustrate her point, she discussed the widely covered shooting of Minneapolis resident Renée Good by an ICE agent earlier this year, arguing that important context was largely absent from the initial coverage. According to Duke, many reports presented a simple narrative—that ICE had shot an innocent woman—while giving comparatively little attention to the circumstances surrounding the encounter. "The vehicle was moving. Federal officials said Good attempted to ram agents. Good's partner was taunting agents and yelling at her to drive away. Her wheels were pointed toward the officer. In other words, the real story was complicated. The viral story wasn't." Duke argued that the case reflected a broader pattern in which the media prioritized a compelling narrative over a more complete account of the facts.

## The Ideology of the Intelligent

Duke argued that the most influential media narratives often persuade not through sensationalism but through credibility. By quoting experts, citing statistics, and appealing to justice, science, and compassion, she said, journalists can frame stories in ways that shape readers' moral conclusions. As she put it, **"Low-end clickbait insults your intelligence. High-end clickbait flatters your conscience."**

Duke contended that many journalists do not view their own perspective as ideological. Instead, she said, they often see it simply as the way informed or educated people think.

Reflecting on her own background, Duke shared that she grew up in a blue-collar family. Her mother worked at a video store to help support the family while her father completed trade school. Duke and her brother became the first in their family to attend college, an experience she said exposed her to a very different worldview.

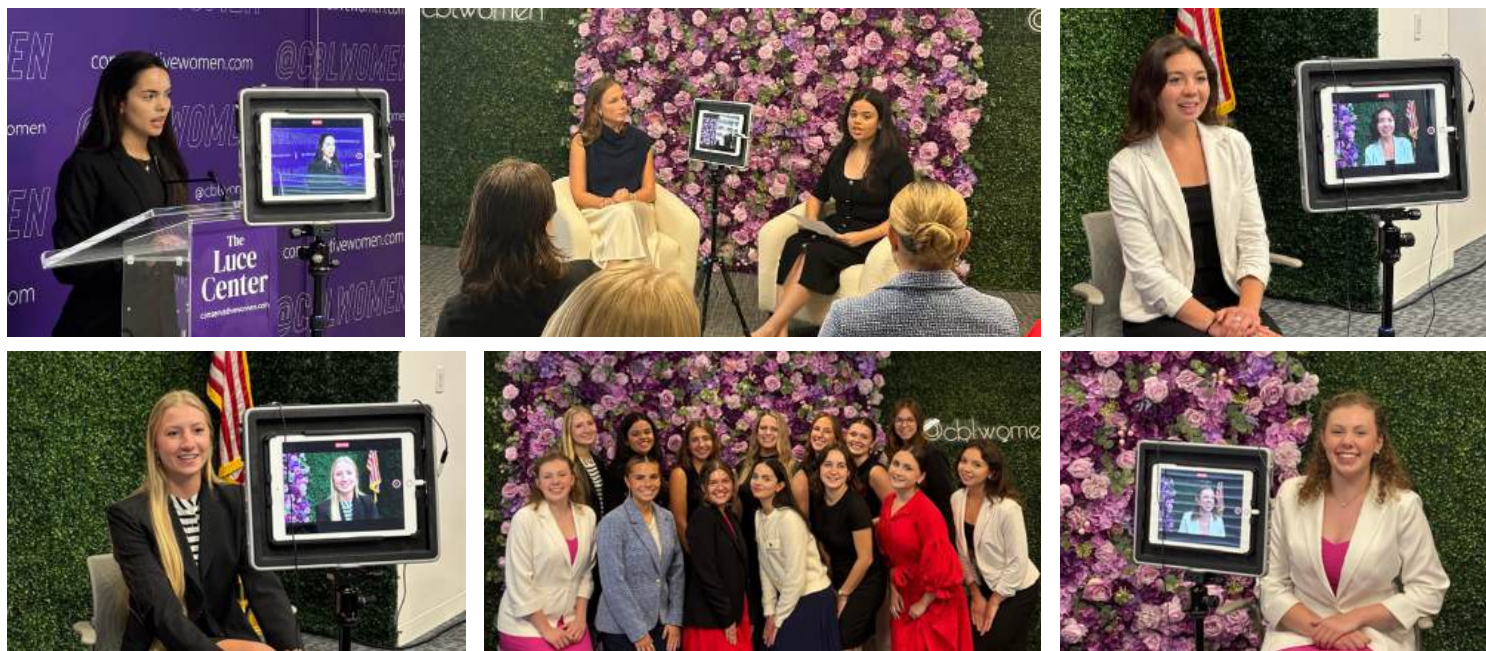
Drawing on her years at Georgetown University, Amber explained that many people who grow up around political and cultural power struggle to understand perspectives different from their own.

"They don't understand why parents might want a gun in the house. They don't understand why parents might be furious about what is being taught in schools. And because they do not understand, they often do not report. They interpret."

## The Path Forward

Amber concluded by offering practical ways to navigate today's media landscape, all grounded in what she described as disciplined skepticism. She encouraged participants to ask what emotion a story is trying to produce, consult primary sources when an issue matters, and pay close attention to the language journalists use to frame events. She also urged them to consider whose perspectives are missing from a story, whether parents, local residents, or women directly affected by the issue. Finally, she cautioned against replacing unquestioning trust in the legacy media with unquestioning trust in conservative media. **"We don't beat dishonest media," she reminded attendees, "by becoming dishonest in the other direction."**

# Leading with Confidence: Interns Build Essential Communication Skills



**Beverly Hallberg** leads our interns through practical, on-camera exercises designed to build skills and confidence.

Strong leaders are strong communicators.

A highlight of the Luce Center's summer internship program, our annual Leadership and Communications Seminar equips young women with the confidence, poise, and communication skills needed to lead with conviction in classrooms, boardrooms, media interviews, and public life. We are grateful to a generous friend of the Luce Center in New York City, whose annual sponsorship makes this transformative program possible.

Led by nationally recognized media expert and District Media Group President **Beverly Hallberg**, the intensive two-day seminar challenged interns to develop and refine their messaging across a variety of speaking formats. Through hands-on practice, personalized coaching, and real-time feedback, interns learned to communicate effectively under varying levels of preparation and pressure.

On the first day, each intern delivered a prepared speech from the podium before a camera and a live audience. Hallberg coached them on the essential elements of effective public speaking, including posture, pacing, vocal variety, and audience engagement.

On the second day, the focus shifted from prepared remarks to real-world communication. Interns relied only on brief talking points during a mock panel discussion before moving to rapid-fire interviews conducted without notes or advance preparation.

**Ansley Ayers**, a rising junior at **Wake Forest University**, reflected on the experience: “The seminar with **Beverly Hallberg** completely transformed how I approach public speaking. I gained so much confidence from the process, and all the skills I learned will stay with me for life!”

By the end of the seminar, each intern had grown in confidence, composure, and the ability to communicate clearly under pressure. These are not merely presentation skills—they are leadership skills that will equip them to serve as persuasive advocates for truth throughout their careers and lives.

# Understanding the Constitution, Preparing to Defend It



*Attorney **Ann Gleason** equips interns with a deeper understanding of the Constitution and the principles that safeguard American liberty.*

America's future depends on citizens who understand not only what the Constitution says, but why it matters. On June 23, our summer interns participated in a three-part Constitutional Law seminar led by **Professor Ann Gleason**, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at **Belmont Abbey College**. We are deeply grateful to a generous friend of the Luce Center from Janesville, Wisconsin, whose sponsorship made this important seminar possible. An accomplished attorney, former prosecutor, and constitutional law professor, Gleason has spent decades practicing, teaching, and explaining the law. Drawing on that experience, she challenged our interns to think deeply about rights, freedom, and the principles of the American Founding.

Throughout the seminar, Gleason examined the framers' rationale for the separation of powers and the constitutional safeguards designed to protect individual liberty. She emphasized that **our rights come from God and are protected—not granted—by the Constitution**. She also challenged interns to think carefully about how to explain those principles to others.

"Professor Gleason offered helpful ways to share the most important principles of America's founding with people from any background," said **Alexis Lange**, a rising senior at **Benedictine College**.

**Olivia Girasia**, a rising sophomore at the **University of Pittsburgh**, described the seminar as "interesting, informative, and engaging," noting its thoughtful exploration of constitutional history, Supreme Court cases, and the Founders' intentions.



*(L) Professor **Gleason** leads interns through the United States Constitution. (M) **Lindsay Ryan** and **Ansley Ayers**, rising juniors at **Wake Forest University**, showcase their pocket constitutions. (R) **Lucy Carney**, a rising sophomore at **Benedictine College**, prepares to answer a Jeopardy! question, demonstrating her growing knowledge of the Constitution and America's founding principles.*

# Writing and Rhetoric: Interns Practice Prose and Persuasion with Marji Ross



*(L) Marji Ross (center) equips interns with the writing skills needed to communicate ideas with clarity and conviction. (R) Interns put their writing skills to the test during a fast-paced exercise in clarity, persuasion, and precision.*

Clear, effective writing is one of the most valuable skills a leader can possess. Whether shaping public opinion, advancing ideas, or inspiring others to action, strong writing requires clear thinking, careful listening, and disciplined communication. We are deeply grateful to a generous friend of the Luce Center from Richmond, Virginia, whose sponsorship made this important workshop possible.

Luce Center board member, marketing expert, and former Regnery Publishing President **Marji Ross** led the seminar, drawing on decades of experience in publishing, communications, and messaging. She challenged interns to think critically about the writing process, emphasizing that effective communication begins with attentive reading, intentional listening, and thoughtful analysis.

The workshop explored the essential elements of persuasive writing, including understanding one's audience, clarifying a message, and organizing ideas for maximum impact.

“This has been my favorite seminar of the summer. Marji Ross showed us how **good writing earns respect, builds confidence, and makes you invaluable**,” shared **Lindsay Ryan**, a rising junior at **Wake Forest University**. Ross’s practical guidance equipped interns with skills they will use throughout college and their professional lives. As **Caroline Bonomo**, a rising senior at **Hillsdale College**, reflected, “Marji taught me how to write effectively and efficiently. **I will carry her advice into not only my last year of college, but the rest of my life.**”



*Interns work together to create a radio advertisement, practicing the art of communicating ideas clearly and persuasively.*

# Leadership and Professionalism: Interns Prepare to Excel in the Workplace

One of our interns' favorite seminars of the summer, the Luce Center's Leadership and Professionalism Seminar on June 29 equipped young women with the **habits that inspire trust, earn respect, and lay the foundation for effective leadership**. We are especially grateful to a generous friend of the Luce Center from Waukesha, Wisconsin, whose sponsorship made this valuable seminar possible.

Led by retired CIA officer, **Jennifer Bucalo**, the seminar explored the often-unspoken expectations of the modern workplace, emphasizing that professionalism is built through preparation, reliability, initiative, and genuine care for others.



*Sharing lessons from a life of leadership, **Jennifer Bucalo** instructs the next generation of conservative women on how to succeed through professionalism.*

"Jen Bucalo's professionalism seminar was practical and engaging, providing advice that could be applied to all aspects of daily life!" shared **Olivia Girasia**, a rising sophomore at the **University of Pittsburgh**.

The seminar left a lasting impression. "Jen Bucalo showed us that the best way to learn how to navigate unfamiliar situations is through direct experience," reflected **Juliana Lucas**, a rising junior at **Tulane University**. "As a college student preparing for the professional workplace, these lessons resonated with me deeply and helped me realize that sometimes the best learning is simply doing."

## Exploring the Virtues of Commerce

As part of their summer leadership formation, our interns gathered on June 18 for a seminar on the virtues of commerce, exploring the foundations of free and flourishing societies.

Led by **Michael Maibach**, the seminar considered freedom, wealth creation, and virtue as the pillars of a commercial republic. Tracing relevant historical moments from the Treaty of Westphalia to the American Revolution, Maibach guided our interns through the relationship of commerce and liberty, analyzing how the two interact.



*Luce Center interns dive into the complex landscape of commerce, liberty, and ethics with **Michael Maibach**.*

**Lucy Carney**, a rising sophomore at **Benedictine College**, shared: "Mr. Maibach introduced me to so many ideas that I'm excited to keep learning about!"

Maibach illustrated that **thriving businesses require the same qualities as good citizens: sacrifice, service, discipline, and integrity**. Understanding the unqualified value of ethics, our interns developed a foundation for both personal fulfillment and economic prosperity.

# *President's Club Retreat at the* **College Women's Summit** SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



**EXCLUSIVE**  
*President's Club Event*

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE  
CENTER for CONSERVATIVE WOMEN

## October 16 - 18, 2026

President's Club members are invited to join us for an exclusive retreat during our annual College Women's Summit in San Antonio, offering a unique opportunity to encourage the next generation of conservative women leaders while enjoying fellowship with friends of the Luce Center.

### CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



#### **Isabel Brown**

Host of the Isabel Brown Show and author of *The End of the Alphabet: How Gen Z Can Save America*



#### **Mary Margaret Olohan**

White House Correspondent for *The Daily Wire*



#### **Nicole Parker**

Former Special Agent at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)



#### **Caroline Downey**

Columnist and Video Personality at *National Review*

*More speakers coming soon!*



**San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa**  
in charming San Antonio, Texas



#### **Friday, October 16**

4 p.m. President's Club Reception

5 p.m. Opening Banquet

#### **Saturday, October 17**

9 a.m. Speakers and Photos

5 p.m. Tejas Rodeo Show



**Your only responsibility is your hotel accommodations.**

Reserve your room through our discounted room block by September 20, and let the Luce Center take care of the rest—including retreat programming, meals, and an evening at the Tejas Rodeo Show.



## Want to know more?

Contact Anastasia Leffas, Membership Coordinator, at [aleffas@conservativewomen.com](mailto:aleffas@conservativewomen.com) or 703-318-0730

# On a Personal NOTE

Dear Friend,

The measure of a generation is not only what it builds, but what it passes on. As America marked the 250th anniversary of its independence this month, we were reminded that **the values that have sustained our nation for two and a half centuries must be intentionally taught, lived, and passed on.**

America's founders believed that our rights come from God, not government; that freedom carries responsibility; that a free society depends on a virtuous citizenry; and that strong families are the foundation of national flourishing. They valued integrity, hard work, personal responsibility, and love of country.

These are the traditional American values at the heart of the conservative movement.

If these values are to endure, they must be intentionally cultivated in the next generation. That is the mission of the Clare Boothe Luce Center for Conservative Women.

As you read this month's *Luce Ladder*, you will see those values taking root in the lives of remarkable young women who are learning to seek truth, speak it with courage, lead with integrity, and defend the principles of a free society.

The young women featured in these pages will become journalists, attorneys, teachers, business leaders, mothers, and public servants. **The formation they receive today will influence the families they raise, the communities they serve, and the nation they help lead tomorrow.**

Thank you for your faithful support. Because of your generosity, today's young women are embracing the values that have strengthened our nation since its founding. As America begins its next 250 years, please know how deeply we appreciate all you do to pass on these enduring values to the next generation of leaders.

In Friendship & Freedom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Beeg". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "B" and a trailing flourish.

President



*One of the greatest blessings of my work is partnering with friends like President's Club member **May Hardiman**, whose generosity makes opportunities like our Washington, DC Summit possible for today's young women. Here, we're joined by U.S. Ambassador **Leah Campos**.*

P.S. Every article in this issue tells the same story: the next generation of conservative women is preparing to lead. **Thank you for helping pass on the enduring American values that will guide them, and strengthen our nation, for generations to come.**