



THE NATIONAL CAPITAL-AREA POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Delaware ★ District of Columbia ★ Maryland ★ Pennsylvania ★ Virginia ★ West Virginia

**Annual Business Meeting and Presentation of Walter Beach
Pi Sigma Alpha Award
Friday, October 18, 2019
12:00-1:15p.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Introductions (Jonathan Ladd)
- 2) Presentation and Acceptance of Walter Beach Award (Jonathan Ladd and Frances Lee)
- 3) President's Report on the State of NCAPSA (Jonathan Ladd)
- 4) Bylaw Amendment (Jonathan Ladd)
- 5) Election of Officers and Council Members (Jonathan Ladd)
- 6) Farewell to outgoing officers (Jonathan Ladd)
- 7) Message from the New President (Trace Lasley)
- 8) Discuss NCAPSA Strategy 2019-2020 (Trace Lasley)
- 9) Adjournment

Nominated Leadership

President, 2019-2020: Trace Lasley (Department of Homeland Security)

President-Elect, 2019-2020: Danny Hayes (George Washington University)

Secretary-Treasurer, 2019-2020: Steven Smith (APSA)

Council, 2019- 2021:

Erin Cassese (University of Delaware)

Lauren Cohen Bell (Randolph Macon College)

Joel Simmons (Georgetown University)

Continuing Leadership

Council, 2018- 2020:

Michelle Chin (Archer Center, University of Texas)

Elizabeth Spalding (Claremont McKenna College)

Jacob Straus (Congressional Research Service)

Outgoing Leadership

President, 2018-2019: Jonathan Ladd (Georgetown University)

Council, 2017-2019:

John Altman (York College of Pennsylvania)

Rosalyn Cooperman (University of Mary Washington)

Corrine M. McConaughy (George Washington University)

Walter Beach, Pi Sigma Alpha Award, 2019
Frances Lee, Princeton University

Frances Lee is the leading expert on the contemporary Congress and the challenges it faces. Through an already long career studying Congress, she has greatly increased our understanding of how it operates and the ongoing challenges it faces, and also shown herself to be extraordinarily skilled at communicating those insights to the world.

Congress faces several major challenges to be an effective representative and policy-making body in the changing American society. Lee's work has addressed, and helped us to better understand, each of the biggest challenges. For example, her 1999 book, *Sizing Up The Senate: The Unequal Consequences of Equal Representation* (coauthored with Bruce I. Oppenheimer) explains the causes and consequences of the unique attributes of the Senate as a legislature. As the populations of states grow increasingly unequal, and the median Senator's constituents grow less similar to the median House member's constituents, how is this changing American politics? Lee and Oppenheimer's book is the first place to go to answer such questions.

Her recent two books, *Beyond Ideology: Politics, Principles, and Partisanship in the U.S. Senate* and *Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign* explain how the extreme partisanship of the current political system is manifesting itself in Congress. The books are essential reading for anyone to understand the modern polarized Congress. Among other things, she explains how partisanship is not just confined to policy disagreements, but spills over into team-based fights in all areas. She also explains how, unlike in the mid-twentieth century, the constant possibility of majority control switching in the next election has led the parties to constantly angle for partisan electoral advantage.

For academic work, Lee's writing is unusually accessible and directed at the present-day challenges that Congress faces. For those interested in reforming the system and making Congress function better, her work is essential reading. By teaching us about the institutional challenges Congress faces and how they might be solved, Lee epitomizes the goal of the Beach Award, to honor a person who "strengthen[s] the relationship between political science and public service."