

Ottawa University

Gwartney Institute for Freedom, Justice, and Human Flourishing



Report for January-May 2023

Undergraduate Student Engagement

Catan Game Night

Attendance: 16

Description:

In our midyear update we reported feedback from students who hoped we would host a Catan Board game tournament. Catan is a good event for our students in PPE programs for two reasons. First, it teaches strategic action and the value of mutually beneficial exchanges. Second, a game similar to Catan is used in our PPE League competition each year.

We had 16 students attend. Our students rated their satisfaction an average of 9.3 out of 10 for the game choice. Satisfaction with the event was rated an average of 9.5 out of 10. One student highlighted the importance of trade in their comments:

“My wheat resource kept getting blocked by the robber and there wasn’t many 5’s being rolled for wood so when they occasional 5 was rolled I built towards a port and gained a trade in. With that trade in I was able to essentially cut off another player from another wheat spot and claim it for myself and eventually that earned me the W.



Breakfast Book Club: Black Liberation Through the Marketplace

Attendance: 13

Description:

This year for our book club we read Rachel Ferguson and Marcus Witcher's book, *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace*. The book describes how African American's were able to gain liberty and success by exchange on the free market. It also highlighted attempts to limit African American's access to free markets throughout the late 20th and early 21st century.

We had 14 students and one student affairs employee join us for the book club. Students rated their knowledge gain.



One Student commented:

“This experience was great! I loved the discussions, was upset I had to miss the last one, and everyone always had good input that they had taken to the table. It was also nice to speak with different grade levels and also people from different parts of the world because it allowed for there to be more point of views and different input I missed or interpreted differently. Overall, a great experience!!!!”



Dr. Rachel Ferguson Speaker Event

Attendance: 64

Description:

Dr. Rachel Ferguson came to give a talk at Ottawa University on the topic of how Classical Liberalism relates to racial equality. In the talk, she focused on her book's research which we discussed in the book club the prior year. Dr. Ferguson highlighted how classic liberal ideas have long been on the side of promoting racial equality, and how the African American community benefit from access to a free and open marketplace. The event was well-attended, and students remained for a Q&A session after her talk.

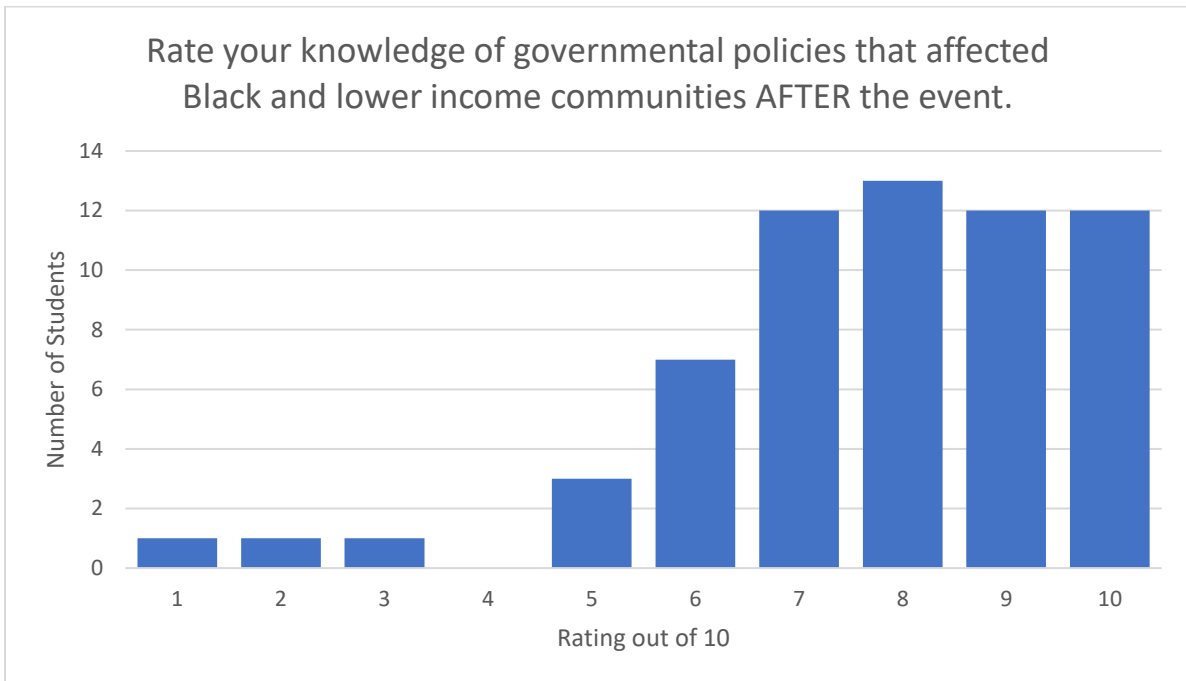
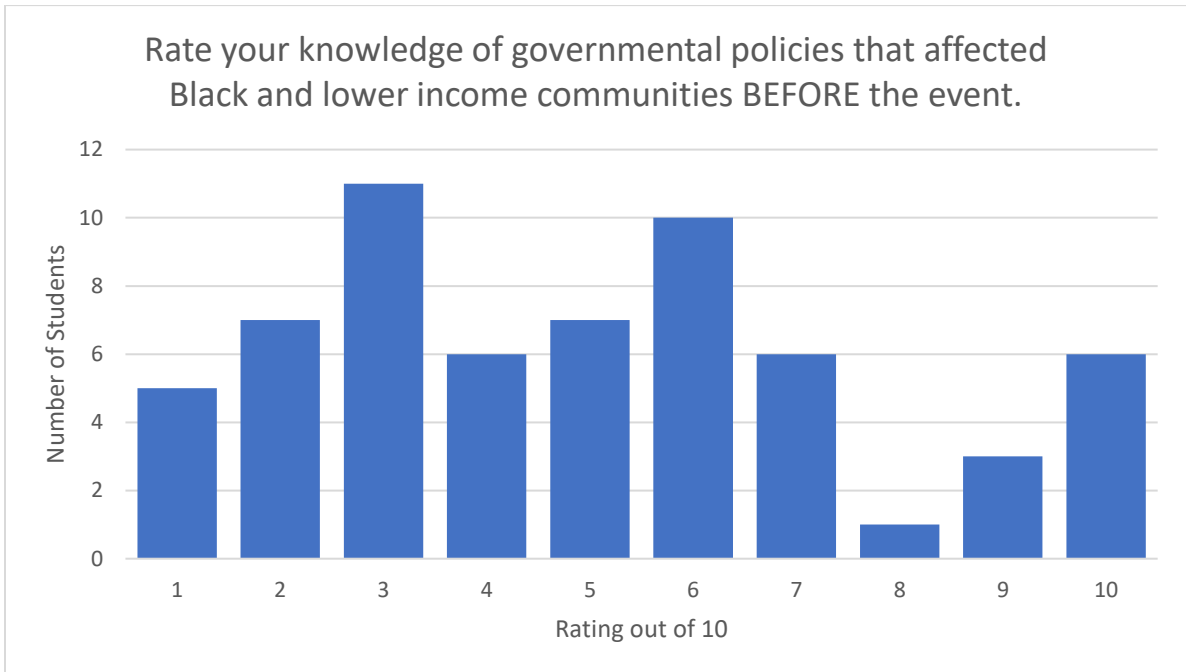
Students commented:

"I honestly thought her speech was very informative. It was great hearing things from a more factual instead of opinionated standpoint. Honestly enjoyable."

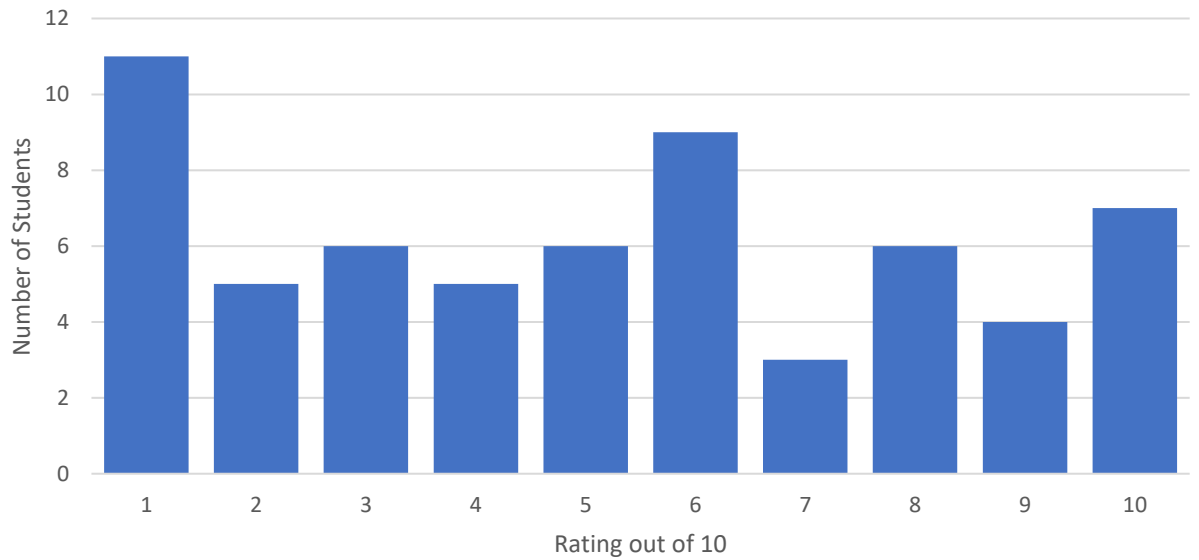
"I had a very limited knowledge of walking into the event and left with a good background on Black historical context. I found it very valuable and enjoyed the speaker."

"Good speaker. Engaging the entire time and had good examples that should coincide with general knowledge of American history."

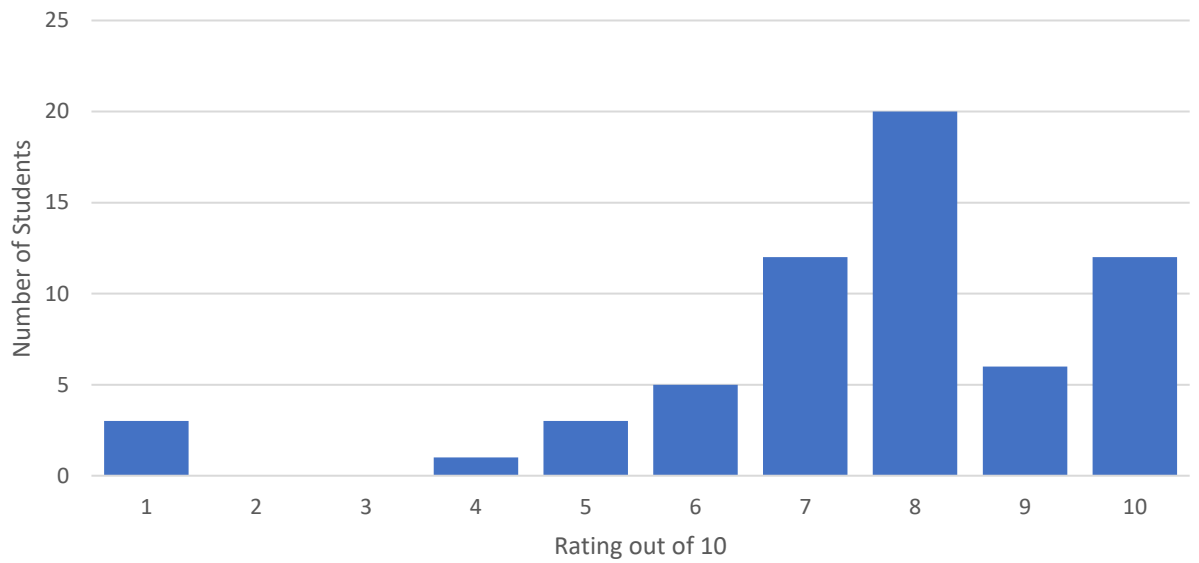
Students rated their knowledge before and after the event:



Rate your knowledge of classical liberal ideas as they relate to racial equality BEFORE the talk.



Rate your knowledge of classical liberal ideas as they relate to racial equality AFTER the talk.





PPE League Competition

Attendance: 38

Description:

For the third year, Ottawa University put on a PPE League competition—an intercollegiate competition which focuses on the ideas of politics, philosophy, and economics. Students compete in a game theory competition, a strategic video game competition, a commercial creation competition, and a policy case competition.

This year the competition included Lindenwood University, Emporia State University, Pitt State, Park University, and Ottawa University. With five universities, this is the largest PPE League competition yet. Ottawa University placed 2nd behind Lindenwood this year.

The video game competition for this year used an online version of Settlers of Catan. Students competed in the Ottawa University Esports Arena.



For the game theory competition this year students competed in a prisoners' dilemma game where they were paired up and had the chance to cooperate for more total points or betray one another for more individual points. However, if both players betrayed each other, neither would earn points. There was both a point reward for the team as a whole and a cash reward for the individual with the highest score. This led to some interesting results, such as team members undermining their own team to earn cash.





The theme for this year's competition was "Rule of Law vs. Rule of Man". As such, students created commercials for the competition which can be viewed here:

Lindenwood University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZN6wsC7Src>

Emporia State University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouMCGqe8YaM>

Pitt State: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ipd42uZRnAU>

Park University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55MwN8DNtGY>

Ottawa University: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEl_u2XQQu8

Students also competed in a Policy Case competition surrounding the theme. Case defenses can be viewed here:

Lindenwood University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaHGbCpkvrE>

Emporia State University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lqmPI7or1s>

Pitt State: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxMskLECjEc>

Park University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVb4RuSmeME>

Ottawa University: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEl_u2XQQu8



Here is a selection of comments we received:

“Thoroughly enjoyed making the commercial with the students, and thoroughly enjoyed starting the competition in this way, seeing what the other schools produced. It's a fantastic idea for the competition. Our commercial will hopefully start the thinking process for a student to ask about the difference between rule of law and rule of man. We see the commercial as also a gateway for getting students involved with PPE. Our

commercial was not so explicit in content but conveyed the great relationship between students and faculty so that new students might join our group and learn more about themes like rule of law vs. rule of man, federalism, the free market, etc.”

“It got me out of my area of academia and helped developed more teamwork skills.”

“The competition is equal parts preparation and thinking on your feet. I learned some of the ways the rule of law provides freedom within structure.”

“I had no real preconceptions about these topics, however hearing the policy cases made me consider multiple positions.”

“It was a great event and I look forward to fielding a team next year. Kudos and Bravo to everyone who was part of the planning and hosting of this eventful program.”

More pictures can be found on the Gwartney Institute Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/GwartneyInstitute>

Creighton Humanomics Colloquium

Attendance: 6

The Gwartney Institute took six students to Creighton University for participation in 3 discussion sessions, 2 keynote speeches, 1 faculty panel, and a podcast. The topic was the importance of economic freedom. The event was hosted by the Institute for Economic Inquiry. Professor Jacobsen was one of the discussion leaders and professor McCullough led the podcast session. The keynote speaker was Yeonmi Park, a North Korean defector.



Promotions/Hires

- Menard Professor Dr. Justin Clarke was promoted to the position of Associate Professor of Philosophy at Ottawa University.
- Cole McCray was selected as 2023-2024 undergraduate scholar for the Gwartney Institute. Cole is one of the students the Institute engaged with at the PPEfest event the prior year.
- Undergraduate assistant Jacob Caudill graduated and received a job as an Internal Auditor & Financial Advisory Consultant.
- Graduate Assistant Luke Graham graduated with his Master's in Business Administration.
- Graduate Assistant Lawson Medlen completed his time at Ottawa University and received a job as a Financial Analyst at MWCCompany.

University Engagement

Drs. Clarke and Jacobsen took the Ottawa University Top Scholar students on their annual Top Scholars trip to Washington DC.

Academic Conferences

Russ McCullough, “Association for Private Enterprise Education”

Research/Writing

Dr. Clarke:

Edited, updated, and contributed to the ancillary materials and teacher's edition of the forthcoming 12th edition of Pojman/Vaughn’s *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth*, which is one of the most well-respected and highly used textbooks in Philosophy.

Dr. McCullough:

[Why the Federal Reserve Pays Interest to Your Bank—and You Get Nothing](#). FEE.

Dr. Jacobsen:

[The Population Brain verses the population's brains: How entrepreneurs confound population planning](#). *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy*, forthcoming.

[Economic calculation, transaction costs, and the problem of externality: the case of the airline oversales auction system](#) (with P. Boettke and R. Candela). *Southern Economic Journal*, forthcoming.

[AI Will Change Higher Ed for the Better](#). James G Martin Center for Academic Renewal.

[Thinking on the margin, or why some pollution is better than none](#). Reformed Perspective.

[Paul Ehrlich: Wrong on 60 Minutes and for Almost 60 Years](#). FEE.

[Are Tattoos a Rational Use of Resources?](#). FEE.

[Has Capitalism Created a Wasteful Excess of Managers?](#). FEE.

[The World's Largest Economics Association Just Passed a Policy Stating All Data in Journals Must Be 'Legally Acquired'](#). FEE.

[3 Rules of Rational Parenting Derived from Good Economics](#). FEE.

[Did FDR Create the Middle Class?](#). FEE.

[Why a Big Tax Refund Shouldn't Excite You](#). FEE.

[Why C.S. Lewis Thought Healthy Patriotism Curbs Excessive Militarism](#). FEE.

[How the Free Market Handles Monopoly](#). FEE.

[Why We Should Let Bad Banks Fail](#). FEE.

[What Even Is a Non-profit?](#). FEE.

[Why Politicians Use Force Rather than Markets](#). FEE.

[Yellen's Comments Create the Worst of All Possible Worlds for Banking Incentives.](#) FEE.
[What Is Fractional Reserve Banking and Is It Good or Bad?.](#) FEE.
[How to Make a Budget in Just a Few Easy Steps.](#) FEE.
[Why Does the Federal Reserve Target 2% Inflation?.](#) FEE.
[Are Food and Energy Excluded from Inflation Measures?.](#) FEE.
[Should Legislators Have to Disclose Harmful Consequences of Legislation?.](#) FEE.

Civic Engagement

On April 26, Dr. McCullough served on Panel discussion Wichita, KS covering the topic of “School as Enterprise”. It was an all-day event centered around the idea of low-cost private schools as an alternative to public schools. Dr. James Tooley was the keynote speaker. The event was sponsored by the Bastiat Society and the Kansas Policy Institute.

