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**HAS SOCIAL MEDIA CHANGED DEMOCRACY?**

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Harris Public Policy, Lecture Hall 142

PANELISTS:

**Ned Ryun** is the founder and CEO of American Majority, a non-partisan political training institute whose mission is to identify and mold the next wave of liberty-minded candidates, grassroots activists and community leaders. Under Ryun’s leadership, American Majority has trained over 27,000 candidates and activists since January 2009, conducting over 800 in-person trainings in an unprecedented national effort to recruit new community leaders.  A former writer for President George W. Bush and the son of former Olympic medalist and U.S. Rep. Jim Ryun (R-KS), Ned Ryun is highly sought after for his commentary on Tea Party politics, the national political scene, grassroots engagement and the conservative movement in general. Ryun has appeared on Fox News’ “The O’Reilly Factor,” “Hannity,” “Special Report with Brett Baier,” “Your World with Neil Cavuto,” “Fox & Friends,” ABC’s “World News Tonight” and has been quoted in numerous print publications including Time Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Politico, The Washington Post, and The Washington Times. He also writes a monthly column for The American Spectator.

**Alexandra Woodward** is the Digital Organizing Director at Organizing for Action. OFA is a non-partisan 501(c)4 created to train and support the next generation of progressive change-makers. With hundreds of local chapters around the country, OFA volunteers are building this organization from the ground up, community by community, one conversation at a time—whether that’s on a front porch or on Facebook. As Digital Organizing Director, Alexandra develops strategy to use the power of digital tools to build sustainable relationships with potential action-takers and to encourage civic engagement through community participation. Before OFA, Alexandra ran the digital program for a branch of the United Nations Global Compact and founded and directed a volunteer program for an international NGO to empower local community members to become agents of change and promote global citizenship. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and Human Rights from Barnard College of Columbia University.

**Thomas Keeley** has lived in cities all around the country but, as a die-hard Bucks fan, is proud to call Milwaukee home. He started his own media consulting company in 2009 after graduating from UW-Milwaukee, specializing in social media development, online marketing, and performance analysis. Through his work with non-profits, political campaigns, and private companies, Thomas has earned a reputation for excellence. His projects have gained recognition from dozens of news networks and publications, including Wall Street Journal, PBS, New York Times, CNN, and Fox News. His clients have included Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker (R-WI), Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner (R-IL), the National Taxpayers Union, Young America’s Foundation and others.

**Roy Temple** is a veteran political, public affairs and digital strategist and a co- founder of GPS Impact. Temple got started in digital as a blogger in 2005 when he helped found Fired Up! Missouri — recognized by the Washington Post as an outstanding local political blog. Temple has served as a chief of staff to both a governor and a U.S. Senator. He also served as executive director for Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s transition. He has served on the digital and/or strategy teams for Governor Mel Carnahan (D-MO), Senator Jean Carnahan (D-MO), Governor Bob Holden (D-MO), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senator Al Franken (D-MN), Governor Tom Wolf (D-PA), Governor Roy Cooper (D-NC) and others. Temple has also assisted with crisis communications, including for natural disasters, plane crashes, recount litigation and political “scandals” ranging from tax issues to salacious writing. Temple is a former Chair of the Missouri Democratic Party and is a licensed attorney.

**Joe Mansour** leads the digital practice at FP1 Strategies where he architects winning online campaigns for his clients. FP1’s clients have included the National Republican Congressional Committee, Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), the Congressional Leadership Fund (also known as Speaker Ryan’s super PAC) and many others. Recently, as the digital director at Public Notice, later Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Mansour built and managed an eight-person team that ran all online advertising, website development, digital content creation, analytics, and social media monitoring for the organization and its numerous allied groups. At Public Notice, Mansour masterminded the launch of Spendopedia, a Wikipedia-like resource of wasteful government spending whose unveiling was featured in The Washington Times.  Spendopedia was referred to as “a new sheriff in town… going after the big, wasteful spenders” by Citizens Against Government Waste. Mansour also oversaw the production over several innovative web series including a parody of The Office about the government’s yearly practice of “use it or lose it,” which won an award from Independent Journal Review for “out of the box” use of digital media.

**MODERATOR:** **Karen Tumulty** is a national political correspondent for *The Washington Post*, where she received the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting in 2014. She joined the Post in 2010 from TIME Magazine, where she had held the same title. During her more than 15 years at TIME, Tumulty wrote or co-wrote more than three dozen cover stories. She also held positions with TIME as congressional correspondent and White House correspondent. Before joining TIME in 1994, Tumulty spent 14 years at the Los Angeles Times, where she covered a wide variety of beats. During her time there, she reported on Congress, business, energy and economics out of Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C.