

Stephen Farnsworth

Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Farnsworth has spent decades researching how media and politics intersect. Check out his website at stephenfarnsworth.net.

Biography

Dr. Farnsworth is a sought-after political commentator on subjects ranging from presidential politics to the local Virginia congressional races. He has been widely featured in national media, including The Washington Post, Reuters, The Chicago Tribune and MSNBC.

He is author or co-author of six books on presidential communication. His latest work, "Presidential Communication and Character: White House News Management from Clinton and Cable to Twitter and Trump," examines how the last four U.S. presidents sell themselves and their policies in an ever-expanding and sometimes precarious media environment.

Among his other books are "The Global President;" "Spinner in Chief: How Presidents Sell Their Policies and Themselves;" "The Nightly News Nightmare: Media Coverage of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1988-2008;" "The Mediated Presidency: Television News and Presidential Governance;" and "Political Support in a Frustrated America."

A professor at University of Mary Washington for nearly two decades, he established the University's Center for Leadership and Media Studies. He is recipient of the 2017 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV), and was recognized for his service to the national political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha. The University has bestowed four teaching honors, including the Alumni Association Outstanding Young Faculty Member Award, the Mary W. Pinschmidt Teaching Award, the Richard Palmieri Outstanding Professor Award and the Waple Research Professorship Award.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Public Policy, Government Relations, Government Administration, Research, Training and Development

Areas of Expertise

American Elections, American Government, The American Presidency, Internet Politics, Mass Media and Politics, Virginia Government and Politics, Journalism

Affiliations

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society , Fredericksburg Regional Board of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia : Member, Former Chair, Political Communication Section of American Political Science Association. 2012-2014

Event Appearances

Partisan Trends in Late Night Humor

Virginia Association of Communication Arts and Sciences

The New Virginia: Politics and the Economy after the 2017 Elections

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Reviewing the 2017 Elections in Virginia

Virginia Civics Summit

The Trump Presidency, the Mass Media and Public Opinion

The Norwegian Washington Seminar

The Identity Crises of the Democratic and Republican Parties

White House Fellows Foundation Leadership Conference

Donald Trump and the Late-Night Political Humor of Campaign 2016: All the Donald, All the Time

American Political Science Association

Virginia's Candidate Selection Process: Examining Recent Primaries and Conventions

American Legion Boys' State of Virginia

President Obama's Use of New Media: Enacting the Affordable Care Act and Defining Presidential Character

Western Political Science Association

Politics, Media and the American Political System.

Institute for International Education Visitor Leadership Program for International Journalism, U.S. Department of State

Media Bias is a Threat to American Democracy

Podius Debates. University of Mary Washington

Digital Media, Public Opinion and the US Presidential Race

BI University

The Presidential Candidates, the Mass Media and the Angry Voters of 2016

Mary Talks, University of Mary Washington

News Coverage of the 2013 Virginia Governor's Race Versus Presidential Election News

American Political Science Association

A Comparative Analysis of the Partisan Targets of Media Fact-checking

American Political Science Association

U.S. Journalism, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy Development

Institute for International Education Visitor Leadership Program for International Journalism, U.S. Department of State

Late Night Comics Examine Campaign 2016: Donald Trump Dominates the Jokes

American Political Science Association Pre-Conference in Political Communication

Barack Obama and the Rise of the Diffident Presidential Style

Midwest Political Science Association

Studying the Presidency after 9/11: Re-considering Presidential Character in Domestic and International Contexts

9/11 and the Academy Conference at Emory & Henry College

Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers

American Political Science Association

News Coverage of U.S. Presidential Campaigns: Reporting on Primaries and General Elections, 1988-2012

American Political Science Association,

The Automated Coding of Sentiment in Political News Coverage: Examining Newspaper Coverage of the 2013 Race for Governor of Virginia

American Political Science Association Pre-Conference in Political Communication,

Virginia Voters and Decentralized Governmental Power: Federal Frustration and State Satisfaction?

Virginia Social Science Association,

Education

Georgetown University

Ph.D. American Government

Georgetown University

M.A. American Government

University of Missouri

B.A. (Honors) History

Dartmouth College

B.A. (Honors) American Government

Accomplishments

Waple Research Professorship

Awarded for outstanding research in political science.

Farnsworth Receives Outstanding Faculty Award

Stephen J. Farnsworth, University of Mary Washington professor of political science and director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies, has received the prestigious 2017 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV).

Farnsworth Receives National Political Science Association Award

Stephen Farnsworth, professor of political science and director of the UMW Center for Leadership and Media Studies, was recognized for his dedication and service to Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, at the American Political Science Association Conference in September 2016.

Recipient, Distinguished Communicator Award

Awarded by the Virginia Association of Communication Arts and Sciences.

Best Conference Paper Award in Political Communication

Eastern Communication Association

Best Conference Paper Award in Political Communication

Southern States Communication Association

J. William Fulbright Research Chair in Public Policy

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Outstanding Young Faculty Member Award

Awarded by the Alumni Association of Mary Washington College.

Mary W. Pinschmidt Teaching Award

Presented by the graduating class to the faculty member "who had the greatest impact on their lives" at Mary Washington College.

Richard Palmieri Outstanding Professor Award

Presented by Mortar Board honor and service society in recognition of exceptional teaching and service to Mary Washington College.

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