On Tuesday, February 4, the DeVoe L. Moore Center co-hosted a Symposium on Filmmaking, Property Rights, and Public Policy featuring the film "Little Pink House." The film tells the story of Susette Kelo and explains her efforts to keep her house from being seized by the local government for redevelopment. The concern of eminent domain led to a precedent-setting US Supreme Court decision.

Prior to movie screening, DMC director Dr. Samuel Staley, and "Little Pink House" director Ted Balaker led a dialogue about "Making Movies that Matter," focusing on the creative and social demands of filmmaking.

An expert policy panel focusing on eminent domain, property rights, and the legacy of Kelo v. City of New London followed the movie screening.

The panel incorporated the voices of experts from different disciplines, thus enabling a constructive, interdisciplinary conversation. The DMC extends its gratitude to Gary Van Ladingham (public administration), Ken Metcalf (private-sector planning), Sal Nuzzo (James Madison Institute), Mark Seidenfeld (FSU law school), and Ted Balaker for lending their perspective and expertise to this discussion.

This issue of the center’s newsletter covers symposium statistics, essential takeaways, and highlights the important research of Arnel Garcesa.

DID YOU KNOW?
The DMC currently has 25 interns working in the fields of editing, public affairs, data analytics, and public policy.

Prospective interns can email Dr. Staley for more information!
THE DMC’S CORE VALUES

In the spirit of valuing transparency, the DMC intends to be explicit about its core values.

The 5 cornerstones are the foundation of all publications, endeavors, and sponsorships.

Empowerment -
Ensure public policy and government regulations support individual initiatives through private enterprise.

Opportunity -
Create value for the economy and community by minimizing barriers and regulations that inhibit individual and business growth.

Innovation -
Provide a framework that allows change and value creation through more effective regulatory processes, new product creation, and the fostering of new ideas in business and public policy.

Fairness -
Promote impartial decision making in legislative and public policy processes, giving citizens and residents a level playing field and equal access to government and public agencies.

Justice -
Mitigate unfairness and restore balance to those unfairly treated or marginalized by the policymaking process.

SYMPOSIUM IMPACT

As our biggest event of the year, the symposium garnered a total attendance of 140-150 people: an encouraging feat considering the President’s State of the Union speech occurred simultaneously.

With a hard count of 70 students (tracked by card swipes), we can affirm total head counts at each event: 40 at the filmmaking panel, 110-120 at the screening, and 50 at the policy and property rights panel.

In addition to a constructive dialogue, the symposium boasted high attendance rates, indicating favorability. The DMC plans to organize future events according to data acquired from the symposium.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Arnel Garcesa

Arnel’s Seminole career concluded, temporarily, with a bachelor’s degree in statistics in 2016.

In 2018, Arnel returned to the Florida State campus and the Tallahassee workforce. He’s currently a researcher at the DMC and an employee at Cenergistic, an energy conservation and sustainability company.

When asked about his sustainability interests, Arnel notes that Florida has “the moniker for being the Sunshine State,” but lags in solar installation capacity. His resulting inquiry concerns Florida Power and Light, Florida’s leading utility company.

He found that, in spite of the nickname, the profitability of solar energy is not sustainable in Florida.

Profit simulations based on industry values found only 20% of scenarios economically viable; similarly, the return on investment was below the 6% threshold in 99% of scenarios.

Reflecting on his accomplishments, Arnel offered two words: “fortunate and proud.” The latter, undoubtedly, due to his recognition at the local and international levels. He will represent the DeVoe L. Moore Center and present his findings at APEE’s International Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in April 2020.

Arnel credits his success to the mentorship of Dr. Samuel Staley and Dr. Crystal Taylor, who took a “leap of faith” with the returning graduate. The center is privileged to guide and support Arnel’s important, timely research in his field.
INTERDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATIONS

An interview with producer and director Ted Balaker

The symposium successfully sparked a dialogue between various intellectual camps - from skilled creatives to public policy experts. To discuss the importance of interdisciplinary discussions, Ted Balaker offered his expertise and opinion.

Balaker is the award-winning filmmaker and producer of the feature film "Little Pink House." His remarkable accolades include roles as a journalist and founding partner of Korchua Productions. With expertise in multiple areas, Balaker has a unique vantage point to assess the current state of research and education.

Balaker quickly noted that universities, like public discourse, "tend to be too siloed." Too often, students and faculty alike sequester themselves in one intellectual community. He favors the DMC's template, which produces content derived from extensive, multidisciplinary collaboration. Balaker analogized these efforts to a "kind of cross-pollination between disciplines"; without it, the effect of discourse and innovation suffers.

To analogize further, Balaker likened interdisciplinary collaboration to Mixed Martial Arts. He attests that the opponent versed in multiple moves will always defeat the competitor skilled in one. While Balaker did not vouch for intellect-inspired brawls, he concluded with the notion that there are parallels in policy.

Balaker’s perspective aligns with the center’s commitment to diverse research projects conducted by multidisciplinary interns. Heeding Balaker’s call for action, the DMC will continue to support events that further the interdisciplinary agenda at Florida State University and beyond.

To Our Sponsors:
Thank you for making this event possible. The DMC looks forward to future collaborations.