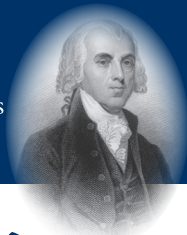


James Madison Program
in American Ideals and Institutions




The James Madison Program Presents
the Annual Herbert W. Vaughan Lecture on
America's Founding Principles

Why Is American Politics
So Polarized?



James Q. Wilson,
Ronald Reagan Professor of Public Policy,
Pepperdine University; Visiting Lecturer,
Senior Fellow in the Clough Center for
the Study of Constitutional Democracy,
Boston College

Monday,
October 18, 2010
4:30 p.m.
Lewis Library 120



“I, Herbert W. Vaughan, have endowed this Lecture at Princeton University to promote and advance understanding of the founding principles and core doctrines of American constitutionalism. What Alexander Hamilton said to the Americans of his day remains true for Americans of every generation:

‘It seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force.’

In my judgment, the Constitution of the United States is the greatest practical achievement of political science. It is a testament to the extraordinary gifts of creativity, prudence, and high mindedness possessed by the founders of our Nation. May you be guided and inspired by their genius as you meet the challenges of the present day.”

-Herbert W. Vaughan



James Q. Wilson is Ronald Reagan Professor of Public Policy, Pepperdine University; Visiting Lecturer, and Senior Fellow in the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, at Boston College. From 1985 until 1997 he was the James Collins Professor of Management and Public Policy at UCLA. From 1961 to 1987 he was the Shattuck Professor of Government at Harvard University. He has served on a number of national commissions concerned with public policy. He was chairman of the White House Task Force on Crime in 1966, chairman of the National Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse Prevention in 1972-1973, a member of the Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime in 1981, a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board from 1985 to 1991, a member of the board of directors of the Police Foundation from 1971 to 1993, and a member of the President's Council on Bioethics. He is currently chairman of the Board of Academic Advisers of the American Enterprise Institute and has been a trustee of the RAND Corporation. He is the author or coauthor of fifteen books, the most recent of which is *The Marriage Problem* (HarperCollins, 2002). Others include *Moral Judgment* (Basic Books), *The Moral Sense* (Free Press), *American Government* (Houghton Mifflin), *Bureaucracy* (Basic Books), *Thinking About Crime* (Free Press), *Varieties of Police Behavior* (Harvard University Press), *Political Organizations* (Princeton University Press), and *Crime and Human Nature* (with Richard J. Herrnstein, Simon & Schuster). In 2008 he and co-editor Peter Schuck published *Understanding America: The Anatomy of an Exceptional Nation*. Many of his writings on morality and human character have been collected in *On Character: Essays by James Q. Wilson*. In 1990 the American Political Science Association presented him with the James Madison Award for a career of distinguished scholarship, and in 1991-1992 he served as the association's president. In 1994 he received the John Gaus Award for "exemplary scholarship in the fields of political science and public administration." In 2003 President George W. Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. He has been elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society. From 1952-1955, he served in the United States Navy. He earned an AB from the University of Redlands and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He has received honorary degrees from seven universities, including Harvard.

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