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Contacts:

Kristy Schantz 202-758-3918
kkschantz@virginia.edu

Kim Curtis 434-243-2985
kcurtis@virginia.edu

U.Va.'s Miller Center Examines JFK Rhetoric & Imagery to Mark 50th Anniversary of JFK Presidency

Charlottesville, VA – The University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs hosted a day of events on Jan. 28, examining the rhetoric and imagery of President John F. Kennedy. This was the first of several programs the Center plans to mark the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's presidency.

During a morning talk, Michael Duffy, Time magazine's assistant managing editor and Washington bureau chief, discussed Kennedy's candidacy and the making of the first celebrity president. He illustrated his presentation with some of Time Life's iconic images of Kennedy.

During an afternoon panel discussion, Miller Center scholars examined Kennedy's rhetoric, symbols, and images, as well as his collaboration with speechwriter Theodore Sorensen. Barbara Perry, author of "Jacqueline Kennedy: First Lady of the New Frontier," explored how Kennedy explained his Catholicism to voters in speeches written with Sorensen. Marc Selverstone, who is currently writing a book about Kennedy and Vietnam, analyzed selected passages from Kennedy's inaugural speech, using audio from the Miller Center's online collection. Sid Milkis, author of numerous books on the presidency, moderated the panel.

Archived webcasts of these events can be found at www.millercenter.org.

The Miller Center has a wealth of Kennedy resources, including White House tape recordings. Center scholars are transcribing and annotating the hundreds of hours of White House meetings and phone calls that Kennedy secretly recorded. The Center also has in-depth essays about Kennedy and his administration and

video of many Kennedy speeches. All of these resources are available to the public at www.millercenter.org/president/kennedy.

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson's public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives, and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

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