MARY KATE CARY

"Reasonable Republican" who is a sought-after speaker and expert on the American presidency, the political landscape, and the national movement for free speech and viewpoint diversity.

Speaker & Guest Lecturer

Ms. Cary wows audiences on leadership and politics, free speech and viewpoint diversity, and speechwriting. She has appeared on bipartisan political roundtable panel discussions at the National Constitution Center, Harvard's Kennedy School, the Miller Center, the National Press Club and corporate conferences and trade associations. Ms. Cary also regularly speaks at conferences sponsored by national speechwriting organizations, such as the Professional Speechwriters Association and Ragan Communications.

Popular Speaking Topics

★ Free Speech and Civil Disourse in Higher Education Today

★ Building Viewpoint Diversity on College Campuses

★ What Young People Can Learn from George HW Bush

★ The Greatest Speeches in American Political History

★ The Nuts and Bolts of Persuading Others in a Polarized World

Professor

- Adjunct professor in the University of Virginia's Politics Department, featuring seminars on "Political Speechwriting," and "Democracy Out Loud," on the greatest speeches in American political history.
- Earned the UVA Student Council award for excellence in teaching in her first year in the classroom.
- Teaches election focused classes alongside a Democratic professor, leading the only political science class in America with perspectives from both sides of the aisle.
- Senior Fellow at UVA's Miller Center from 2017-2023.

Bush 41 Speechwriter

- Served as a White House speechwriter for President George H.W. Bush, drafting more than 100 Presidential addresses.
- Chair of the advisory council of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation; has been a council member since 2004 at the Bushes' invitation.
- Continues to write for national political, corporate, and nonprofit leaders, including State of the Union responses and TED talks.
- Top analyst for CNN's domestic and international broadcasts during the week-long television coverage of President Bush's state funeral; she also covered First Lady Barbara Bush's funeral for foreign and domestic media.

Free Speech Advocate

- Served on UVA's Committee on Free Expression and Free Inquiry, which produced the University's policy on free speech.
- Director of Think Again @ UVA, a new initiative to promote free speech, viewpoint diversity, critical thinking, and intellectual humility through student-facing programming.
- Co-founded the UVA chapter of Heterodox Academy, a national organization that advances openthat supports academic inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in higher education and research.
- Founded the UVA Student Oratory Contest, in which students write and deliver short speeches on American democracy in the Dome Room of the Rotunda, and serves as faculty advisor for The Jefferson Independent, an independent student newspaper.

Media Columnist & Analyst

- Biweekly columnist on politics, serving as a former contributing editor at U.S. News & World Report from 2009-2017.
- Political analyst on National Public Radio, as well as a regular contributor on CTV, the largest cable news network in Canada. She has appeared on most major American network and cable outlets over the years.

Documentarian

- Created and was executive producer of "41ON41," an award-winning documentary in which 41 extraordinary storytellers shared their best stories about President Bush 41.
- Producer of "President in Waiting," a documentary about the modern vice presidency which features interviews with all the living U.S. Vice Presidents.

Board Member

- UVA Fund for Free Expression and Viewpoint Diversity (trustee)
- Darden School of Business Executive Communications Council (member)
- Ronald Reagan Institute's Women-Led Civics Initiative (member)
- National board of Network of Enlightened Women (member)
- Children's National Medical Center Board (member)
- Capitol Chapter, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (board chair)