

1145-VC-2771 **Nathan Morris** and **Haley A Yapple*** (hyapple@carthage.edu). *Political Polarization: Voting Patterns in the Senate*. Preliminary report.

It seems from the current political climate that partisanship is on the rise, but how can this be quantified? In this work, we investigate partisanship in the the U.S. Senate using methods from a recent paper which studied the U.S. House of Representatives [Andris et al. 2015]. By comparing agreement both within and between parties, we create a network structure defined by vote records. An analysis of this network highlights the range of Senator behaviors and allows us to track changes in partisanship, both on the individual and party level, over decades of vote history. (Received September 25, 2018)