At the Elliott School of International Affairs, our world-class faculty and dedicated staff prepare students to meet the global challenges that threaten our peace, prosperity, the environment and even our health. We teach students to think critically and to solve problems drawing upon skills from a wide range of disciplines. We push them to view the world from multiple perspectives. We charge them to make ethically responsible choices based on real-world scenarios. In doing so, we build tomorrow’s global leaders.

Maintaining our top-10 ranking among schools of international affairs, the Elliott School remains a vibrant hub for policy and practice within the George Washington University. The school’s centers and institutes continue to garner recognition for the important role they play in regional and thematic research. This year, two Elliott School institutes received the prestigious designation of National Resource Center awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

As our world changes, so too has the study of international affairs. Nearly two-thirds of our graduates go on to careers outside of government in the private and nonprofit sectors. Yet we remain laser-focused on finding even more ways to expand the student experience. Beginning with the fall 2019 semester, the Elliott School will offer a new Bachelor of Science in International Affairs degree. This option will allow our students to seamlessly integrate computer science, economics and other STEM-related disciplines into their already rigorous academic programs.

As we prepare to welcome the incoming class, I remain mindful of the ever-growing burden of student debt, which has become a national challenge. To this end, the Elliott School last year provided more financial support in the form of fellowships than ever before. In addition, we provide travel grants for field research and stipends to supplement unpaid internships. We are doing everything we can to enable even more students from even more diverse backgrounds to access a world-class education.

We could not do this without the support and generosity of our Elliott community – the alumni, parents and friends who believe in this institution and its mission. Thank you. You make educating the next generation of leaders possible.

Sincerely,

Reuben E. Brigety II, PhD, U.S. Ambassador (ret.)
Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs
The George Washington University
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How does the Elliott School educate the next generation of global leaders? Discover our students’ stories.

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The Elliott School community is committed to giving back. Discover what our dedicated alumni and donors have to say.
A Global Education

Not only did our interviews validate the core aspects of our initial research, but we were able to have the remarkable experience of seeing this research come to life. Our time in Jordan allowed us to make the invaluable connection between what we read about Jordan from afar and what is actually taking place on the ground.

—Global Capstone Participant
The **Global Capstone** is the **culminating experience** and **signature project** for most Elliott School graduate students. Every year, over 250 students collaborate with client organizations to **identify policy solutions to current global challenges**, often involving **field-research trips to foreign countries**, and **present policy recommendations** to some of the most prestigious institutions in Washington, D.C.
Our team traveled to Bogota, Colombia, for our capstone project to learn first-hand about the evolving humanitarian crisis across the border in Venezuela.

Migrants leaving Venezuela are vulnerable to traffickers who make false promises about the kind of life they will live outside the country and take advantage of their need for economic stability. Our project examined how international actors and state governments can best foster migration out of Venezuela while minimizing exploitation and human trafficking.

The challenges of this humanitarian crisis, such as dealing with survivors of sexual assault and assisting migrants pursuing legal work while undocumented, have created an environment where trafficking can thrive.

The meetings we arranged with officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees gave us incredible insight that has aided our research in ways we cannot yet begin to quantify. We know this experience will lead to a more in-depth, thoughtful final product that will generate new knowledge about the ongoing problem of human trafficking out of Venezuela.

Kristen Mitchell, MA ’19, Global Communication

Liz Rosenbaum, MA ’19, International Affairs

John Arnold, MA ’19, International Affairs
Boren Fellows
WHERE LANGUAGE MEETS POLICY

Boren Fellowships take many of our graduate students abroad for intensive area and language studies, providing a key international dimension to the education of our current and future national security professionals. Grayson Shor, MA ’20, is one such fellow. “I chose to do my Boren in Taiwan so that I could study China’s environment and evolving sustainable environmental technology industry,” says Grayson, “and to greatly improve my Mandarin so that I could conduct this research in the local language...in a culture vastly different than my own.” Grayson also serves as a circular economy officer at the American Institute in Taiwan. When he isn’t in class or working on his Mandarin homework, he meets with U.S. and local government officials, heads of companies and non-governmental organizations, researchers, village leaders and other local and global stakeholders. As a finalist focusing on sustainable infrastructure in Taiwan’s International Presidential Hackathon, he also had the opportunity to meet with Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen. Grayson counts the Elliott School, especially the Office of Graduate Student Services and the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, among his biggest supporters. “Their years of spot-on mentorship and, truly, friendship have helped me make the right career and life choices. I am so thankful for them.”

“
I chose to do my Boren in Taiwan so that I could study China’s environment and evolving sustainable environmental technology industry.
—Grayson Shor, MA ’20
International Internships

BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Interning abroad offers our students a truly international understanding of the world through firsthand professional experience. Through the support of a Freeman Foundation Grant administered by the Elliott School, Sarah Yee, MA ’20, was able to spend a semester interning at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. While there, she worked closely with the State Department’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, preparing briefing materials for senior U.S. officials and communicating with senior Japanese officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and the National Diet, or Japanese parliament. “The topical knowledge I gained during this internship ties directly to my educational experience as much as my professional experience,” says Sarah. “Unexpectedly, I worked on a wide range of issues, hardly limited to Japan—including Russia, Venezuela, Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.” Sarah is currently an exchange student in Berlin, taking courses on transatlantic relations and the former Soviet Union. When she returns, she plans to graduate in the spring of 2020 and then join the Foreign Service through the Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship Program.

“The topical knowledge I gained during this internship ties directly to my educational experience as much as my professional experience.”

—Sarah Yee, MA ’20
Dean’s Scholars

RESEARCH AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES GO HAND IN HAND

The Dean’s Scholars program provides the opportunity for undergraduate seniors to travel to their countries of interest to do firsthand field research. After spending time in Jordan as a Boren Scholar, Nicolas Reeves, BA ’19, felt the country was like a second home, and he wanted to return to continue his studies in the field. He applied to be a Dean’s Scholar in order to pursue his research on how the state-led tourism industry has affected the Bdoul and the Layathna tribal communities in Petra, Jordan. Reeves comments, “during my fieldwork in Jordan, I heard from several members of the Bdoul tribe that hundreds of their relatives live in Al Quwayra, a village located approximately 50 kilometers away from Petra. Curious, I decided to ask the Bdoul of Al Quwayra similar questions to those I asked the Bdoul of Petra. The goal was to see if their responses corroborated on particularly contentious topics like their history in Petra. I ended up being invited to interview the Mukhtar (mayor) of the village! We sat for about two hours sipping Arabic coffee and tea and enjoying a conversation on a range of topics. In my opinion, that afternoon in Al Quwayra was the best example I came across in Jordan of the country’s famed tradition of generosity and hospitality towards guests—in addition to representing a cultural exchange in the truest sense of the word.”

In my opinion, that afternoon in Al Quwayra was the best example I came across in Jordan of the country’s famed tradition of generosity and hospitality towards guests—in addition to representing a cultural exchange in the truest sense of the word.

—Nicolas Reeves, BA ’19
The experiences provided by the fellowship will also give me a practical lens through which to comprehend and respond to global security challenges.

—Marie-Charlotte Pierre, MA ’19

**Presidential Management Fellowship**

**A KICKSTART TO SERVICE**

The Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) gives graduate students the opportunity to kickstart their public service careers by placing them in leadership positions in federal agencies. Security Policy Studies graduate, Marie-Charlotte Pierre, MA ’19, applied last fall to become a fellow. “The Elliott School went above and beyond to help me prepare for my application,” she says. “Last fall, I attended a panel co-sponsored by the Elliott School, which provided insight about PMF from current fellows. The extensive mentorship I received from my career counselors, Sharon McCoy and Tara Sonenshine, helped me to understand the process and to create a strong application.” Pierre felt the experience would enable her to pursue a dream of public service in national security and diplomacy. “As a PMF, I will immediately begin supporting American national interests and develop a deeper understanding of its context in international affairs,” says Pierre. “The experiences provided by the fellowship will also give me a practical lens through which to comprehend and respond to global security challenges.”
Research IN ACTION

“Elliott School faculty research covers an astonishing geographic and subject matter breadth. But most importantly, our faculty probe deeply into the most pressing issues facing the world today.”

—Graham Cornwell, Assistant Dean of Research
African women are claiming the 21st century as their own, having made unprecedented strides in leadership and civil society participation since 1995. As Aili Mari Tripp rightly put it in a blog for democracynafrica.org, “one of the most fascinating developments in African politics has been the increase in women’s political participation since the mid-1990s. Women are becoming more engaged in a variety of institutions from local government, to legislatures, and even the executive.”

Aspiration 6 of the Africa Union’s Agenda 2063, which aims to deliver on goals for inclusive and sustainable development, envisions an Africa that is a people centered and gender equal place where women are empowered to play their rightful role in all spheres of life. This aspiration is also reflected in Goal 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 5.5 affirms the importance of women’s equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Likewise, Article 9 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa of 2003 (the Maputo Protocol) guarantees women equal rights to participation in political and decision-making processes. At a continental level, African countries have sought to turn commitments into reality by facilitating greater
participation of women in institutional leadership. To date, the African Union Commission remains the only continental organization to have achieved gender parity in its executive leadership.

Historically, African women have always played critical leadership roles in their families, communities and civil society. Over time, women have been playing more visible roles at national levels as politicians and senior civil servants, in a context of greater public acceptance of women as political leaders. In 2006, war-torn Liberia saw the first elected African woman president: Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. More recently, Ethiopia’s parliament elected their first female president.

In several countries, constitutional requirements have facilitated increased representation of women in national and local legislatures through a quota system. Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians in the world at 61 percent. Women are also represented in the cabinet of every single African country. Ethiopia has reached gender parity in cabinet positions.

Beyond the political sphere, a new generation of African women business leaders is also growing. They have widely recognized business management and innovation skills and they are contributing notably to the economic transformation and stability of the continent.

In studying the dynamics of women and leadership in Africa, however, one finding is clear: Africa is home to both great successes and impediments when it comes to women’s leadership. The continent still presents a mixed picture, as the political participation of women has not translated into consistent and lasting influence of women in decision-making. Moreover, in several countries, recent elections saw a regression in the number of women elected to parliaments and presidencies.

Nevertheless, in the midst of this decline and perhaps because of it, the rise of African women in leadership and as a model for breaking cultural barriers continues as an important area of study.
30 Years since the Fall of the Berlin Wall

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the toppling of the Berlin Wall. After the Berlin Wall: Memory and the Making of the New Germany, 1989 to the Present, by Dr. Hope M. Harrison will be published by Cambridge University Press in October 2019.

At a time when President Trump continues to demand the tightening of our border with Mexico and when countries such as Hungary, Austria and Slovenia have constructed many miles of border wall or fence to keep out immigrants, the world has changed dramatically since the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989.

Although the communist East German regime built the Berlin Wall in 1961 to stop an exodus to the West, more recent walls have been erected to prevent refugees from entering. The barriers, both old and new, have much in common. Walls have been built by regimes who see those on the other side as enemies. They have wrenched families apart. And they continue to present profound moral implications for those involved in their development and manning.

Even 30 years after the opening of the Berlin Wall, Germans are still grappling with its legacy of violence and division. Professor Hope Harrison’s work examines memory activists who have fought since 1989 to commemorate the Wall’s history while the majority of Germans initially sought to leave it behind. Interest in the Wall changed in the mid-2000s when Germans devoted significant attention to
remembering those who were killed trying to escape across the Wall and it altered again in 2009 when German leaders shifted their focus to the “positive” side of the Wall: its fall.

The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall was marked by a massive celebration and the creation of a new German national narrative. The latter highlighted the role of the masses of East German citizens who took to the streets in 1989 calling for change and argued that their “peaceful revolution” brought down the Berlin Wall and the communist regime behind it and then led to German unification. Contemporary Germany was thus born from a democratic revolution, putting Germany among the community of nations with such revolutions as their founding moments. German leaders spoke of their pride in this history and seemed to feel some of the weight of the dark German past being lifted from their shoulders.

Yet approaching the 30th anniversary and faced with rising right-wing populism in the country, particularly in the former East, German leaders are now more worried than proud. They fear that too many of their fellow citizens support policies of exclusion and hostility toward others instead of the far more open attitudes associated with the fall of the Wall: the belief that freedom cannot be stopped, borders have no place in contemporary Europe and walls are antithetical to democracy. Harrison’s book provides an in-depth examination of these competing images of national identity in contemporary Germany, the heart of Europe. Early reviews of her book call it a “tour de force,” “riveting,” and “masterfully told with critical distance and yet deep empathy.”
Trends in Competitive Markets and Globalization

How have information flows and institutions shaped trade in the era of globalization? My research reveals that information, an aspect that has been largely ignored in our understanding of trade policy, plays an important role in the public’s views on globalization and economic policy. Using randomized surveys, I found that the commonly heard “trade hurts jobs” narrative influences the public more than the “trade benefits consumers” narrative in the United States.

The “trade hurts jobs” narrative significantly shifts people’s views negatively regarding globalization and economic policy and raises protectionist sentiments and preferences. This effect stands in contrast to standard assumptions in economic research. The finding also emphasizes the importance for policy makers and the media to convey evidence-based information when describing the economic impacts of globalization.

Second, my research on Alibaba, the world’s fifth largest internet company, highlights the increasingly important role of information in international trade. Typically, while reductions in trade costs can help firms penetrate export markets, lack of information on product quality remains a critical impediment to trade, especially in developing
countries where poorer regulatory and contractual environments lead to lower trust from foreign consumers.

Online international trade platforms like Alibaba, however, offer reputation-building mechanisms for overcoming misunderstandings between potential trade partners, and they help assist in matching exporters and importers. My research assessing the patterns and dynamics of trade on Aliexpress.com shows that reputation and search mechanisms provided by online trade platforms can significantly increase aggregate trade and facilitate growth for high-quality companies, especially in developing countries. Providing high-quality exporters with a platform to establish their reputation could be helpful for these small companies’ long-term growth.

Third, in a new research project, I investigate the influence of institutions - formal vs. informal, modern vs. imperial, common vs. civil, contracting vs. social network - on industry and firm growth by exploring the growth of multinational and domestic corporations in the unique historical context of Shanghai, China, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. How institutions influence firm organization and growth is a central question in economic development today, but research has been complicated by the difficulty of disentangling the role of institutions and the role of location. My research explores a distinct characteristic of Shanghai in the concession period. Specifically, multiple political powers divided the city into segments that each had similar natural advantages, but were ruled by different institutions and governments. I ask how these different forms of governance created different types of economic advantages for firms located in their jurisdiction. In the months ahead, this historical background will offer novel evidence and critical conclusions on the important roles modern legal institutions, in particular, contracting institutions, have had and continue to play, in industrial development.
How do we find evidence that can help us assess the effectiveness of public policies? Rapid social, technological, economic and political transformations are in motion around the world, making long-term trajectories more difficult for policymakers and analysts to predict. This poses particular challenges for developing evidence of the effects and outcomes of science, technology and innovation (STI) policies, as conditions shift more quickly than the traditional cycles of data collection. Currently, policy analysts tend to utilize both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess impact, including methods such as options theory (using variables to theoretically value an option), statistical analysis, and bibliometrics (the quantitative analysis of published books and articles).

Big Data Analysis (BDA) offers a revolutionary opportunity to more systematically evaluate public policies, even under conditions of uncertainty. Researchers like myself now want to know how BDA can help us implement more adaptive STI policies that account for the whole policy cycle, from the exploration phase to policy design to implementation and impact assessment. BDA approaches allow us to select large amounts of data from a wide variety of sources that match up with our needs. Data sources range from published materials such as scientific journals, patents,
media and social networks, to speech, satellite and visual
data generated on a continuous basis across the world. We
can analyze syntax and semantics to create new kinds of
data sets, and we can process the results into new types of
data visualizations (images, graphs, charts, etc.) that make
complex information more accessible to policymakers and
the general public.

Furthermore, BDA provides input that can incorporate
all voices, from academic communities to industry to
average citizens and officials at all levels of governance.
Besides potentially empowering participation in policy
and strategy making, BDA creates a compelling reason for
closer collaboration among industry, government and the
nonprofit sector for the benefit of society as a whole.

To better explore advancements in Big Data Analytics and
link these to the changing nature of STI policy making,
the Institute for International Science and Technology
Policy, hosted a conference, “Transforming Research,”
in September 2019. Speakers included a mix of leading
experts from academia, think tanks and industry, to discuss
how using BDA can support decision-making in R&D-
intensive industries. In an era where ‘data’ is arguably
becoming one of the main sources of competition between

firms and between state actors, the conference highlighted
the variety of concepts and methods for using BDA to
support sound policy decision-making. Speakers also
noted areas of particular concern for the foreseeable
future, such as how we wade through ‘noisy data,’ or data
containing a high level of meaningless information.

As more and more sectors come to rely on Big Data
Analytics, faculty at the Elliott School and its Institute
for International Science and Technology Policy will
continue to seek new ways to bring its benefits to foreign
corporate policymakers around the world.
A WORLD-CLASS Faculty

The Elliott School is committed to attracting the best and brightest to serve on our faculty. Last year was no exception. We are pleased to welcome six stellar researchers and scholars as new members of our faculty.

—Peter Rollberg, Associate Dean
Faculty Affairs and Research Initiatives
IN BRIEF

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Diego Abente-Brun
Visiting Professor of International Affairs
Diego Abente-Brun, PhD, served as the Organization of American States (OAS) Resident Representative in Ecuador, Advisor to the Offices of the Adjunct Secretary General and Secretary General of the OAS in Washington. Previously he was a two-term Senator, Minister, and Ambassador in his native Paraguay. He was a tenured Associate Professor of Political Science at Miami University of Ohio.

Fiona Cunningham
Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Fiona Cunningham was previously a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. Her research interests lie at the intersection of technology and conflict, with an empirical focus on China. She received her PhD from the Department of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she was a member of the Security Studies Program.

Yonho Kim
Associate Research Professor of International Affairs
Yonho Kim is Associate Research Professor of Practice and Associate Director of GW Institute for Korean Studies. He specializes in North Korea’s mobile telecommunications and U.S. policy towards North Korea. He holds an MA in International Relations and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Lucia Rafanelli
Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Lucia Rafanelli received her PhD in Politics from Princeton University. Her primary research interests include contemporary political theory, theories of human rights and global justice. She is an affiliate of the Princeton Dialogues on AI and Ethics program.

Laila Sorurbakhsh
Assistant Professor of International Affairs
Laila Sorurbakhsh received her PhD from the University of Houston in 2012, Laila has served at various universities teaching and researching interest groups, nonprofits, and NGO populations and their capacities to build coalitions. Laila joins the Elliott School as the first Associate Director of the MIPP Online program, with the goal of expanding its academic development and boosting student enrollment.

Yingyan Zhao
Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs
Yingyan Zhao received her PhD in Economics from Penn State University. Her research interests are in international trade, development economics and industrial organization, information asymmetry in international trade and its policy implications.

RETIRING FACULTY

Edward McCord
Professor of History and International Affairs

Henry Nau
Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

Ronald Spector
Professor of History and International Affairs
ELLIOCT FACULTY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Scott Pace, previously Director of the Space Policy Institute and currently the Executive Secretary of the National Space Council, Executive Office of the President, looks on as Vice President Pence signs the policy directive to establish the U.S. Space Force, February, 2019.

EAST ASIA NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER: BRIDGING GW AND THE WORLD

For the first time in GW’s history, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies and the GW Institute for Korean Studies have been jointly recognized as a National Resource Center for East Asian Studies (NRC) by the U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, both centers have been awarded funding for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, which support undergraduate and graduate students studying modern East Asian languages and related area studies.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Research Professor Albert H. Teich Honored with AAAS Lifetime Membership

In 2019, Elliott School Research Professor Albert H. Teich celebrated his 50th anniversary as a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and was awarded the elite honor of lifetime membership in the Association.

Honors

The Elliott School inaugurated the Edward “Skip” Gnehm Leadership, Ethics, and Practice Prize in spring 2019. The annual award will highlight the priority placed on leadership development, ethical thinking, and practical skills training at the Elliott School. The new prize is named for our vice dean and Elliott School double alumnus, Skip Gnehm (BA ’66, MA ’68), whose distinguished 36-year U.S. Foreign Service Career exemplifies its focus.

(Magazine)
Faculty Awards

BY THE NUMBERS

30+ HONORS AND AWARDS

35+ COMMENTARY, PAPERS, FEATURES AND SPECIAL REPORTS

25+ GRANTS

35+ BOOKS

80+ ARTICLES

FACULTY BOOKS

Lyza Mydlin, Hossein Askari, and Abbas Mirakhor, Resource Rich Muslim Countries and Islamic Institutional Reforms.

Hossein Askari and Abbas Mirakhor, Conceptions of Justice from Earliest History to Islam.

Hossein Askari and Abbas Mirakhor, Conceptions of Justice from Islam to the Present.

Amitai Etzioni, Happiness is the Wrong Metric.

Ilana Feldman, Life Lived in Relief: Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinian Refugee Politics.


Eric Grynaviski, America’s Middlemen: Power at the Edge of Empire.


Alexa Alice Joubin and Aneta Maciewicz, eds., Local and Global Myths in Shakespearean Performance.

Tom Bishop, Simon Haines, and Alexa Alice Joubin, eds., The Shakespearean International Yearbook 17: Shakespeare and Value.

Alexa Alice Joubin and Martin Orkin, Race. The New Critical Idiom.

Paul Heer (adjunct), Mr. X and the Pacific: George F. Kennan and American Policy in East Asia.

Marcus King, ed., Water and Conflict in the Middle East.

Kathryn A. Kleppinger and Laura Reeck, eds., Post-Migrant Cultures in Postcolonial France.


Marlene Laruelle, ed., Tajikistan on the Move: Statebuilding and Societal Transformations.

Marlene Laruelle and Jean Radvanyi, Understanding Russia: The Challenges of Transformation.

Marlene Laruelle, Russian Nationalism. Imaginaries, Doctrines and Political Battlefields, 1st Edition.


Marlene Laruelle, ed., Russia’s Policy in Syria and the Middle East. Central Asia Program.


Cynthia McClintock, Electoral Rules and Democracy in Latin America.

Mike Mochizuki and Daqing Yang, Memory, Identity, and Commemorations of World War II: Anniversary Politics in Asia Pacific.


Peter Reddaway, Russia’s Domestic Security Wars: Putin’s Use of Divide and Rule Against His Hardline Allies.

Janet Steele, Mediating Islam: Cosmopolitan Journalists in Muslim Southeast Asia.


Albert H. Teich, In Search of Evidence-Based Science Policy: From the Endless Frontier to SciSTIP.


**FACULTY HONORS AND AWARDS**

Susan Aaronson - Visiting Fellow, Economic Research Institute of Asia, Jakarta.

Susan Aaronson - Visiting Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Studies, Brussels.


Nathan Brown – Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, Board of Trustees, American University in Cairo.


Pascale Ehrenfreund – Chancellor, International Space University.

Pascale Ehrenfreund – Incoming President, International Astronautical Federation.

Charles Glaser – GW OVPR Distinguished Scholar Award (2019).


Hugh Gusterson – John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship recipient.

Eric Grynaviski – International Studies Association Best Book in Diplomatic Studies Award for America’s Middlemen: Power at the Edge of Empire.

Hugh Gusterson – GW Trachtenberg Prize for Scholarship (2019).


Alexa Alice Joubin – Distinguished Visiting Professor, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea (December 2018).


Allison Macfarlane – Member of the Board, American Institute of Physics (2018).


Cynthia McClintock - GW OVPR Faculty Research Mentorship Award (2019).

Cynthia McClintock - Lifetime Achievement Award from the Peru Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

Michael Moore – GW Trachtenberg Faculty Prize finalist (2019).

Harris Mylonas – Editor in Chief of Nationalities Papers, published by Cambridge University Press.


Robert Shepherd – Course coordinator (China/Taiwan/Mongolia) for the School of Professional and Area Studies, Foreign Service Institute, United States Department of State, Arlington, Virginia.


Linda J. Yarr – Visiting Research Fellow, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Finland.

Anthony Yezers – GW Trachtenberg Prize for University Service (2019).


NEW FRONTIERS IN Outreach

“Elliott School Public Affairs celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing and launched a new student run podcast as we continue to engage the community in new ways on new platforms wherever the frontiers of international affairs leads us.

—Robin Khan, Director of Public Affairs
New to airwaves this spring: The Elliott School launched its very first student-led podcast, the “Foreign Affairs Inbox,” featuring interviews with professors on pressing international issues.

Created and hosted by student Koji Flynn-Do and produced by the school’s Public Affairs Office, the podcast’s first season included interviews with Dean Reuben Brigety and professors Melani McAllister, Sean Roberts and Paul Williams. It covers issues from around the world, from China’s mass detentions of an ethnic Muslim minority group to the history of the African Union’s mission in Somalia.

The idea for the podcast came from Flynn-Do, a sophomore majoring in international affairs and sociology, who said he was inspired to start one at the Elliott School after hearing another GW professor being interviewed on a different podcast. He brought the idea to Dean Brigety, who approved of the concept and connected him with the Elliott School’s Public Affairs Office to start the project.

“I’m really excited about finding new ways to communicate big ideas and information,” Flynn-Do said. “I personally listen to a ton of podcasts — when I’m walking, when I’m commuting, when I’m folding clothes — and I thought it’d be a lot of fun to try to be involved in making one myself.”

Another international affairs-focused podcast, “Matters of State,” was created independently by several Elliott School graduate students, now alumni, to explore underreported international affairs topics. “We decided to focus on important global issues that aren’t getting a lot of attention on the front pages,” said the show’s creators, including Kevin Fairdosi, MA ‘16; Lacey Bruske, MA ‘16; John Blaha, MA ‘16; Bobby Shields, MA ‘17; James Goymour, MIS ‘15; and Lindsey Spanner, MA ‘16.

The group has been inspired by many of their Elliott School professors who influenced their content. “Kim Thachuk, for example, really inspired us to explore how international problems are interconnected and how almost everything is a part of a vast web. This is a common theme in many of our episodes.” The podcast has also positively affected their careers. “We’ve all become more well-rounded IR professionals, because the nature of the podcast requires us to study things that are outside of our areas of expertise,” they noted.

Overall, the students’ goal is to make a positive difference in the world through utilizing new media outlets to reach and engage with a global audience.
SPACE DIPLOMACY PROVIDES INSPIRATION

When Michael Collins and his fellow Apollo 11 astronauts toured the world after landing on the moon 50 years ago, he was struck by how excited citizens of other countries were about the achievement. The United States successfully put men on the moon, but more importantly, it was a milestone for all of humanity.

Mr. Collins reflected on that sense of togetherness at an event marking the anniversary of Apollo 11. The event, “One Giant Leap: Space Diplomacy Past, Present, Future,” was co-sponsored by the Elliott School of International Affairs and its Space Policy Institute in partnership with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. State Department.

As the command module pilot, Mr. Collins stayed in orbit around the moon while astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin left the module to become the first crew to land on the moon’s surface. Mr. Collins remembers looking at the Earth from the module and remarking on how fragile it seemed. It also put the geopolitical obstacles on Earth into perspective—from more than 200,000 miles away, you can’t tell where the borders are.

Moving forward, Mr. Collins said, the United States should “bend over backwards” to have a unified, worldwide approach to space exploration.

“It might slow us down a little bit in some cases, but I’m not sure speed is the paramount goal in mind,” he said. “I think getting the job done, getting it done by all inhabitants that are able, inhabitants of the globe, is more important.”

Mr. Aldrin, who made a surprise appearance to conclude the event, agreed. The United States has launched numerous space initiatives over the past half century, but their promises have often gone unfulfilled. Mr. Armstrong famously told the world the moon landing was one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind, but Mr. Aldrin said, “I think a number of us are still waiting for that giant leap.”

The GW event was the only time during the Apollo 11 anniversary celebration that Mr. Collins and Mr. Aldrin, the two surviving members of the Apollo 11 crew, appeared on the same public program.

It also featured a discussion between Mr. Collins, who also is a former assistant secretary of state for public affairs; Ellen Stofan, John And Adrienne Mars director of the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum; and Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden, U.S. science envoy for space and former NASA administrator and space shuttle commander. The discussion was moderated by John Logsdon, professor emeritus at the Elliott School and founder of the GW Space Policy Institute.

During the discussion, Mr. Bolden called NASA the country’s “greatest soft power tool” because of the agency’s ability to attract the interest of people around the world. Dr. Stofan agreed and highlighted the important role the United States plays in promoting solutions to world problems.

“Space is something that provides international inspiration,” she said. “When I look out and think about the struggles we face as a global community like climate change, to me, space is an inspiration to the next generation of innovators and explorers that crosses boundaries.”

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A CAREER Launchpad

“Graduate Student Services is at the nexus of academic advising, career coaching and international education. It’s a welcoming space in which students can explore and plan in an integrated fashion.” —Jim Wylde, Director, Career and Graduate Student Services
Students embark on a site visit to Chicago. Private capital has transformed the world of international affairs, and dynamic opportunities are now emerging in the fields of consulting and security policy as technology adjusts to the market.
Graduate Student Services
Building Connections...

Career Cafe
Each week at Career Cafe, graduate students and alumni get together for informal conversations with our career coaches. Conversations range from tips on the job search to alumni stories about their own career paths. Over the past year, we have heard from a variety of alumni in different professions across the international affairs field.

Summer Networking Night
Each July, we hold a festive networking reception for all Elliott School graduate students, alumni, staff, faculty, and select employers from around the D.C. area. Alumni, as well as students, have myriad opportunities to widen their professional circles and contacts.

Employer Site Visits
Designed as an informational program to help familiarize students with both organizations and industries in general, site visits also offer students a chance to learn about internship or employment opportunities within organizations.
Elliott School Dinner with Alumni

The Elliott School Dinner with Alumni Series brings together employers with small groups of students for intimate conversations designed to provide students with insights into their career paths. The dinners, held bi-weekly during the academic year, have featured representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense, Ernst & Young, and the World Bank, among others.

Networking Studio

A hands-on, dynamic opportunity for students to practice their networking skills. At each studio session, at least one concept is introduced; students then incorporate the concept as they practice networking.

Grad Lab

Grad Lab, held weekly during the academic year, brings together small groups of students for an informal discussion with an academic advisor, career coach, or faculty member. Each lab focuses on a specific topic.

...that Lead to Rewarding Careers
Endless Career Opportunities...

364 MA GRADUATES

88% EMPLOYED

6% Currently Looking
3% Further Education/Research
2% No Response
1% Not Currently Looking

103 PRIVATE SECTOR

53% Consulting/Government Contracting
12% Aerospace/Technology/Telecommunications
12% Financial Services/Trade
9% Other (Incl. self-and temporary emp.)
6% Media
5% Law
3% Health Care
opportunities...

**NON-PROFIT**
- 34% Public Interest/Research/Think Tanks
- 15% Conflict Resolution/Human Rights
- 15% University/Education
- 14% Development Assistance/Public Health
- 13% Foundations/Professional/Trade Assoc.
- 9% Other

92

**PUBLIC SECTOR**
- 53% U.S. Government
- 19% U.S. Military
- 12% Multilateral Organizations
- 6% State/Local Government
- 4% Development Assistance/Advocacy Group
- 3% Foreign Government
- 2% Other

122
...that can lead you
AN ENGAGED Community

“...

My 27-year career as an international banker travelling to South America was successful because of my undergraduate education at the George Washington University. I have supported the School of International Affairs (now the Elliott School) ever since I began my career in banking, and for years my employer matched my gift. I continue to contribute annually, even though I have been retired for many years.

—Honey Heller, BA ’68
THE ELLIOTT Journey

DANIEL GABRIEL
GW BA ’01, MA ’06
Staff Operations Officer: CIA

M.A. International Affairs
Elliott School, GWU

Directed studies on disaster communications, health IT and cybersecurity

MARCIA GWI BA ’06
B.A. International Affairs
Elliott School, GWU

Communications Officer:
African Peer Review Mechanism
Midrand, South Africa

TOM SCHMITT
MA ’06
Program Officer:
Computer Science
& Telecommunications Board
National Academy of Sciences, D.C.

Completed six tours in Iraq and Afghanistan in support of U.S. missions

SUNDUS ALI
BA ’11
International Intern: Institute for Field Research Expeditions
Cusco, Peru

Grant Writer:
FATA Secretariat
USAID funded project
Islamabad, Pakistan

International Finance Corporation, D.C.
An international affairs degree can take you around the world. See where the Elliott School fits into the career journey of four alumni, taking them from Washington, D.C. to Ghana, Pakistan, Seattle and beyond.
THE ELLIOTT SCHOOL

Dean’s Fund

The Dean’s Fund is a critical resource for the Elliott School, dedicated to enhancing the entire student experience, from course development to on-the-ground learning opportunities. Over the past year, the fund has fueled a number of exciting initiatives, and the momentum continues.

—Reuben E. Brigety II, Dean

YOUR PHILANTHROPY BOOSTS STUDENT SUCCESS

Students come first here at 1957 E Street! Because of this, when you support our Dean’s Fund, you provide firepower for high-priority, student-centered enterprises. Read on to learn more about the important activities, programs and events that your generosity, and the generosity of others like you, made possible this year.

Annual Dean’s Honors Reception for academically outstanding undergraduates.

Career Treks and Site Visits to top employers in Washington, D.C., and major U.S. cities to meet with executives working at prestigious firms and agencies.

Professional networking activities such as our Dinner with Alumni series, annual Welcome Back Reception and Summer Networking Night.
Spotlight:  
THE ELLIOTT DEAN’S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Shortly after the academic year launched in September 2018, the Elliott School set out to construct a robust academic portfolio for research-hungry juniors and seniors. Driven forward by success with a similar, long-running curriculum, we built out and up, going from one year to two, increasing rigor, and adding new opportunities for research and professional development. The result is the Dean’s Scholars Program, one of the signature student experiences that the Dean’s Fund supports.

The full two-year program kicks off this fall with more than a dozen enthusiastic juniors setting out on the journey to excellence.

As the juniors begin their journey, they enroll in research-focused courses that teach them how to develop professional project proposals. They also select faculty mentors and identify scholarly journals where they might publish their findings. Over the summer, the scholars embark on field research.

As senior year commences, students will develop polished theses and present their work at the Dean’s Scholar’s Annual Symposium, held in April. There are also opportunities for seniors in the program to speak at scholarly conferences beyond campus and to submit papers to peer-reviewed journals.

“The Dean’s Scholars Program is Elliott’s premier undergraduate research experience,” says Dr. Tobias Greiff, assistant dean for academic programs, who led the charge to create the Dean’s Scholars Program. “This experience positions them to be highly competitive in selective fellowship and graduate school applications.”

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Ambika Nair, whose prize-winning project focused on the ways that the U.S. and China invest in energy projects in Ghana, wrote a 50-page thesis and wished she had been able to dig deeper. “If I had had two years to work on this, my thesis would have been closer to 100 pages!”

Grace Headinger spent her senior year in Australia, studying a nuclear alliance forged in the 1980s by Australia, New Zealand and the United States. “With the additional year, students will be able to build their research project through the program, which will enable them to fully flesh out their proposals before embarking on actual field research.”

Nicolas Reeves traveled to Petra, Jordan, to chronicle tribal narratives and rivalry. “I was given an incredible amount of freedom to mold my project to my interests. It took time to build trust and to learn how to approach sensitive topics respectfully. It was definitely an eye opening experience.”
IMMEDIATE IMPACT
GW’s Legacy Challenge

As we turned our calendars to 2019, we launched a challenge to inspire our supporters to help generations of students to come – and to see immediate results from their generosity.

This year, when you join the GW Legacy Challenge with a bequest to the school or program that matters most to you, GW matches 10 percent of your estate gift. These funds go to work immediately to carry out your wishes.

By the halfway mark, nearly 80 GW supporters had decided to include the university in their estate plans. In addition, GW had directed thousands of dollars in matching funds to the donors’ areas of interest. The challenge continues through the end of the year.

Here at the Elliott School, we are extremely grateful to our generous benefactors who joined the challenge. Read on to learn why GW alumnus William (Bill) Snow decided the time was right for him.

“"To someone thinking about why they should give to GW, I would ask, ‘Did you enjoy your stay at GW, and did it contribute to your path in life?’ If so, you need to pass that on to others.”

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHT
BILL SNOW

Bill Snow, ESIA BA ’65, CCAS MA ’70, CCAS PhD ’76, developed a love for art while growing up in Mexico, where he studied with Spanish watercolorist Jaime Oates. After arriving at GW, he became hooked on economics through a required course—one that led to a fulfilling career in finance. This year, Snow established a generous estate gift that brings together these major influences on his life.

In his former position as treasurer of Johns Hopkins University, Snow was in charge of the university’s endowment, and he came to understand its power. “Working with the endowment, I saw gifts come in that had an amazing impact on the university,” he says. “I saw firsthand that people are enormously generous, and I decided then that I would give back to my alma mater, to GW.”

At the same time, Snow continued to paint, inspired by the interplay of color, light and shadow he had learned in his early art lessons. “The biggest challenge for me is converting the seemingly ordinary into something extraordinary,” Snow says.

In his paintings, Snow evokes appreciation of familiar scenes. It is also appreciation that inspired Snow to give back to GW – and to use his financial acumen to shape a planned gift that combines important themes from his life.

Here at the Elliott School, Snow’s exceptional generosity will one day establish the William E. Snow Jr. Endowment for Latin American and Hemispheric Studies – and do much to amplify the study of this dynamic region. At Columbian College, Snow’s future gift will greatly expand the capacity of the Economics Alumni Endowed Scholarship to provide graduate student aid.
SPOTLIGHT
Graduate fellowships

Great schools tackle the world’s toughest challenges - and educate their students to find new pathways to global peace and social justice for all.

At the Elliott School, faculty and staff share a common goal: teaching our idealistic students how to ask hard questions, make smart decisions, and develop innovative policies.

Our students put their trust in us. We are committed to honoring their trust.

This means more than providing a superior education. It also means offering tuition assistance that will enable them to launch their careers free from undue financial stress.

We at the Elliott School are fortunate. Thanks to our generous alumni, parents and friends, we are able to provide fellowships to more than 55 percent of our graduate students.

Yet we strive to do more. Increasing resources for graduate fellowships is an urgent priority for those of us who care deeply about the Elliott School.

Even a modest stipend can make a vast difference. Read on to learn about how one student is pursuing her ideals boosted by support from a fellowship.

STUDENT PROFILE
RACHEL BAKER

I am beginning my second year of graduate studies at the Elliott School, concentrating on Latin American and Hemispheric Studies. Within this program, I have focused my course work on global public health and security.

Through my graduate work, I am gaining a skill set that will enable me to find pioneering solutions to challenges to public health around the world. The Quinn Fellowship I received is helping to make my education at this world-class institution possible. An added benefit is that this fellowship award bolsters my credentials as a determined young professional.

I first witnessed the transformative effects of increased access to healthcare while working to help provide educational resources about HIV/AIDS prevention to a Central-American community in Cincinnati. As a result, the community became healthier, which sparked increased productivity and led to improved economic security.

If we can implement more health initiatives such as these across the globe, they will have a far-reaching effect on international security and sustainable peace.

Upon graduation, I aim to contribute professionally to innovative programming at global health organizations such as the World Bank, World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization, where I will use my skills to generate positive results for marginalized populations in Latin America.

The Quinn Fellowship I received is helping to make my education at this world-class institution possible.
Connecting THEORY to PRACTICE

2018-2019 STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Elliott School of International Affairs
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

1957 E St., N.W.
Suite 401
Washington D.C. 20052

THEORY PRACTICE

EDITOR
Robin Khan

CONTRIBUTORS
Amy Aldrich
Anthony DeSantis
Matt Donovan
Elaine Garbe
Christina Hughes
Collette Kent
Judy Mannix
Minali Venkatesh

PHOTO EDITOR/PHOTOGRAPHER
Collette Kent

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Elliott School Office of Development and Alumni
Relations: 202-994-0559; give.gwu.edu/GiveToESIA

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