



# Rethink THE World

2019-2020 STATE OF THE SCHOOL



Elliott School of  
International Affairs

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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Student submissions from the 2020 Elliott School Photo Contest, "From Pandemic to Protest," were used as section dividers in the 2019-2020 State of the School.

# A MESSAGE FROM Outgoing Dean, Reuben E. Brigety, II

Dear Friends,

As I step down from my role as Dean to assume my new position as Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South, Sewanee, I leave the Elliott School with a profound sense of gratitude.

I leave grateful to have had the honor to lead the Elliott School these last five years. The school's mission—to build leaders for the world—remains my highest passion.

I leave grateful knowing the school is in excellent hands under the leadership of Interim Dean Ilana Feldman and a superbly capable administrative team.

I leave grateful that the students and alumni trained here are committed to careers of service and are making a positive difference in the world.

Now, more than ever, as we face adversity unlike that of any generation since the Great Depression, I have faith that this academic community of scholars, students, and dedicated staff will rise to the mission. With your collective energy and optimism, we can create a better future.

Finally, I leave grateful knowing that I have made friends for life and contributed something meaningful in the world thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,



Reuben E. Brigety, II  
Outgoing Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs



# A MESSAGE FROM Interim Dean, Ilana Feldman



As I sit down to write this introduction to the 2019 - 2020 State of the School, I realize that by the time of publishing, the words on this page might very well appear outdated and irrelevant, so quickly is our world changing as we swerve from pandemic to protest and back. With that in mind, perhaps it's an opportunity to consider the unchanging, the permanent, the rituals that make the Elliott School an amazing community to be a part of, wherever you are.

Our students continue to seek out a first class Elliott School education. Maintaining our top 10 ranking among schools of international affairs, the Elliott School is 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. The Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies was ranked number one among university affiliated regional studies centers in the U.S. in 2020.

This year, even as our city moved to quarantine, our dynamic institutes quickly pivoted to online events, hosting more than 50 guest speakers and enlarging our audience geographically to include anyone with an internet connection. Our world-class faculty met the current global challenges that threaten the world's health, peace and prosperity with analysis, policy recommendations and increased participation in grants and studies. Faculty were mentioned literally hundreds of times in the media giving rise to our Experts Weigh In webpage and speaker series.

Beginning in the fall 2019 semester, the Elliott School offered a new Bachelor of Science in International Affairs degree, allowing our students to seamlessly integrate computer science, economics and other STEM-related disciplines into their already rigorous academic programs.

In total, there are 92 BSIA majors: 74 are double-majoring across 15 different programs; 18 students are enrolled in the BSIA alone.

Reflecting the changing reality of the STEM driven economy, nearly two-thirds of our graduate students go on to careers outside of government in the private and nonprofit sectors. Financial services, FinTech, aerospace, and IT companies constitute a growing sector of employers seeking out Elliott School graduates.

Our location in the nation's capital continues to provide a pivotal backdrop for events that impact the world. As the Black Lives Matter protests enveloped our city, the nation, and the world, GW and the Elliott School responded. The campaign, *We Will Not Be Silent. We Will Call it by its Name*, Racism reiterated the School's condemnation of racism and discrimination. As evidence of our commitment to fostering an inclusive community, this fall's incoming student orientation will include a shared reading and discussion of race and intersectionality run by the diversity and inclusion initiative. Our school's mission is focused on advancing the understanding of global issues. We cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening within our country, its impact on our community members, or its connection to the human rights issues we seek to better understand each day.

We are doing everything we can to enable even more students from even more diverse backgrounds to access a world-class education. In the most challenging environment our university has ever faced, 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,



Ilana Feldman, PhD  
Interim Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs

## FINGER ON THE PULSE

The Elliott School is on the cutting edge of current affairs

JULY 2019

50th Anniversary of the  
Apollo 11 Moon Landing



The GW Space Policy Institute's John Logsdon, Professor Emeritus, interviews Apollo 11 astronauts Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin at GW Lisner Auditorium. The event is co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the U.S. State Department.



[A permanent space station] could be a place for a wide variety of commercial activities, with billions of dollars of economic payoff... So here we are in 2019, finally going to test that hypothesis.

John Logsdon, Professor Emeritus and founder of the GW Space Policy Institute, for NPR.



# Education IN A CHANGING World

## Lauren Cabreram, BA '24

This photo was taken in the District of Columbia, adjacent to both the White House and Black Lives Matter Plaza in early July 2020. Some of the seemingly innumerable signs posted in this area were incredibly powerful and thought provoking, and this image is just one of a few that caught hold of my attention.

# A PROGRAM REIMAGINED

## Dean's Scholars Take Flight

**T**wo years ago, Dr. Tobias Greiff, Assistant Dean of Academic Programs, set out to remake a promising undergraduate program created for students interested in doing advanced research. Dr. Greiff transformed the former Undergraduate Scholars Program from a one-year to a two-year experience, admitting sophomores in the second semester. Greiff and his colleagues also redefined the program's mission to better align it with the Elliott School's signature Leadership, Ethics and Practice (LEAP) Initiative.

Now known as the Dean's Scholars, this highly selective program is designed to add challenge and depth to the undergraduate academic experience. Along the way, the new program also develops promising students into competitive applicants for top-tier scholarships and graduate fellowships.

Dean's Scholars develop strong research skills, connect with faculty mentors and become part of a network of dedicated, high-achieving peers. The program opens doors for students to share their research findings in publications and at conferences. Each scholar receives comprehensive mentorship from faculty while working on an independent research project.

We recently talked with two Dean's Scholars, **Leah Berkman** and **Eleni Pappas**. Leah is an international affairs major with a concentration in international development and a minor in women's gender and sexuality studies. Eleni is an international affairs major with a concentration in comparative political, economic and social systems and a minor in economics. Both expect to graduate in May 2021.



**Leah Berkman**



**Eleni Pappas**

**Q. The Dean's Scholars is a competitive two-year program for juniors and seniors in the Elliott School. What made you want to participate?**

**LB:** I wanted to expand my education beyond the traditional classroom setting and the Dean's Scholars program looked like the perfect opportunity, so I decided to apply.

**EP:** I decided to participate because I wanted to explore the field of academic research and better understand career paths within academia.

**Q. The program allows selected students to research topics to interact with a variety of thought-leaders in the field, and to strengthen valuable communication and research skills. What is your selected topic of research?**

**LB:** My research looks at what the future of gender-based violence activism looks like in Cape Town, South Africa. This program has been invaluable in teaching me how to design and carry out an independent study. This has also been very useful in applying for internships and jobs. A large reason I was offered an internship at Freedom House was a result of my in-depth knowledge of the research process.

**EP:** My research focuses on the disparaging results of post-Soviet economic and labor policies on women in the Russian workforce. The research works to better understand systematic barriers to female labor force participation in order to create more effective policies aimed at women's economic empowerment. This summer I will collect qualitative data through in-depth interviews with Russian women about their experiences in the workforce. In the fall, I will cumulate my past year of research into a substantial piece of academic writing.

**Q. Who is your faculty mentor? In what ways did your mentor assist with your project?**

**LB:** My faculty mentor is Fran Buntman, professor of sociology and director of the Law and Society minor at the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. She has been an amazing mentor. While I was studying in South Africa, she was always willing to take my calls. Furthermore, being from South Africa, she has been able to provide me first-hand information and perspective for my project, which focuses on civil society and gender-based violence in contemporary South Africa. She also connected me with a wonderful professor and researcher at the University of Cape Town, who continues to guide me in my research.

**EP:** I am very grateful for the mentorship and guidance I have received from both Professor Alex Cromwell, the program director, and Professor Hugh Agnew, my faculty advisor. Professor Cromwell has offered one-on-one assistance and guidance about my individual project and post-graduation plans. My writing skills have improved because of Professor Cromwell's in-depth comments and feedback on all my written work. I am especially thankful that Professor Cromwell facilitated meetings with numerous Elliott School faculty members. We had the opportunity to discuss different research and academic experiences. I was inspired by stories of triumphs and challenges that Elliott faculty faced in the field while collecting data.

**AUGUST 2019**

The 2019 Argentine general elections

The one that's true to Peronism is the one who is pragmatic and sensible about knowing what the mood is...Peron himself was extremely pragmatic. He changed his mind and his policies several times.

Paula Alonso, Associate Professor, for Bloomberg.

China announces tariffs on \$75 billion worth of U.S. goods in response to President Trump's announcement of tariffs on China.

The President wants to alter the trade deficit with China, but I don't see how tariffs can do that...The real problem is China has a long-term strategic vision and in a democracy, it's really hard to come up with a long-term strategic vision and not have it altered by many different political voices who may disagree with certain aspects of it.

Susan Aaronson, Research Professor and Director of the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, for Newsy.

# A World of Possibility FOR ELLIOTT GRADUATES

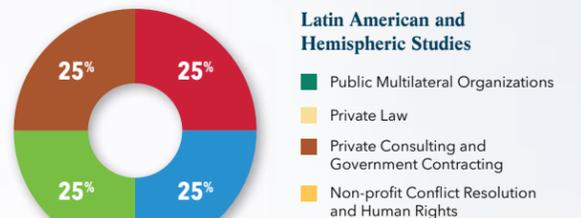
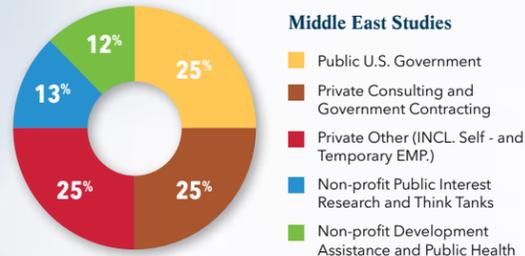
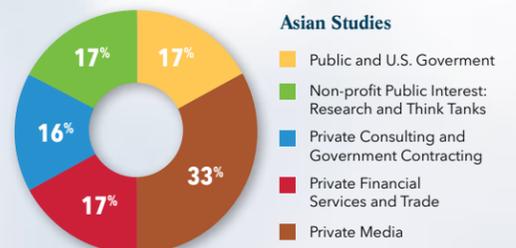
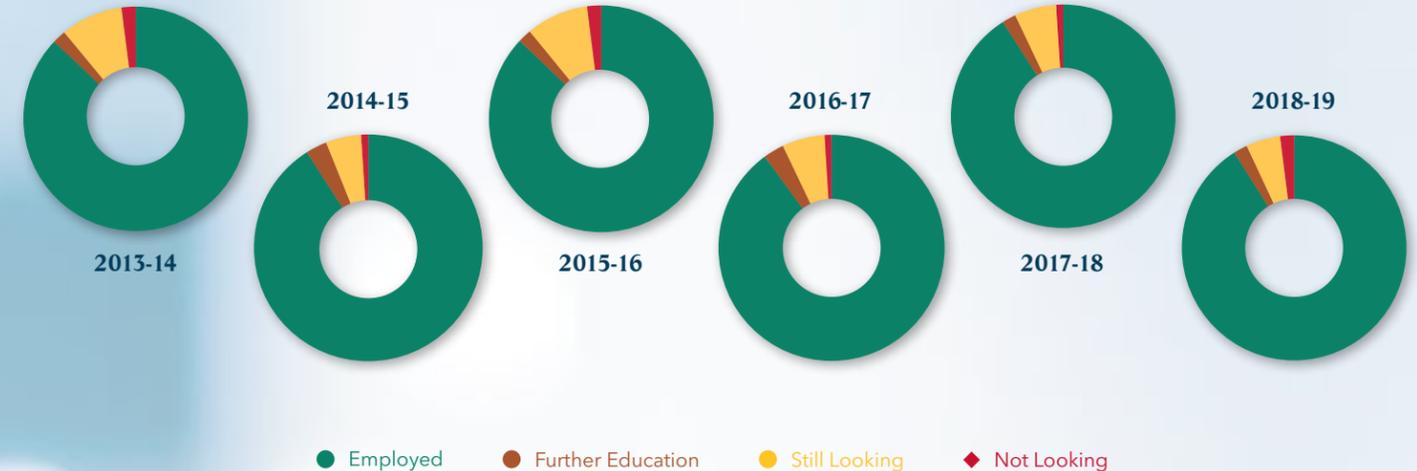
At Elliott, we focus on each student's journey to professional success. From career coaching to visits to top employers, our office of Graduate Student Services works hand-in-hand with students to help them target their studies and hone in on their passions.

Our success is notable: more than 90 percent of Elliott graduate students find rewarding work within six months of graduation. Overall, recent graduates accept positions in public service, with non-profit organizations and NGOs, and in the private sector, in roughly equal percentages.

Among our top employers, we count many federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, and Justice. Leading organizations such as the Atlantic Council, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the Africa Center for Strategic Studies also seek out Elliott graduates. In the private sector, we connect our students with large financial and consulting firms, as well as with smaller, more targeted agencies.

The charts below reveal the success and diversity of employment among the 2019 Elliott School graduates.

## Graduate Employment Status After 6 Months



SEPTEMBER 2019

Greta Thunberg speaks at the UN Climate Action Summit September 23.



The GW Leadership, Ethics, and Practice (LEAP) Initiative co-hosts the 2019 Ambassador of Conscience Award Ceremony honoring Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future Movement at Lisner Auditorium with Amnesty International.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meets with President Trump at the White House after impeachment inquiry began.

The worst thing [Zelensky] can do right now is jeopardize the U.S. military aid going forward by getting actively involved in the fracas going on in D.C....He's in a really tricky position, and he's surrounded by landmines.

David Szakonyi, Assistant Professor, for Vice

# VWHP IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

"We will harness the power of science to achieve our goals - to preserve our environment and protect our national security; to create the jobs of the future, and live longer, healthier lives," said former President Barack Obama in 2012.

In our times, science and technology stand at center stage in addressing the world's most pressing problems. The U.S. State Department itself, in its list of major global policy issues, includes nearly a dozen issues that directly pertain to the four STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and math.

Accordingly, in Fall 2019, GW's Elliott School launched its Bachelor of Science in International Affairs degree, designed to prepare students to tackle global challenges ranging from cybersecurity to space policy. The new degree joins Elliott's graduate programs that increasingly integrate STEM subject matter into the curriculum, with classes on topics such as cybersecurity, data governance, digital trade, space policy and more.

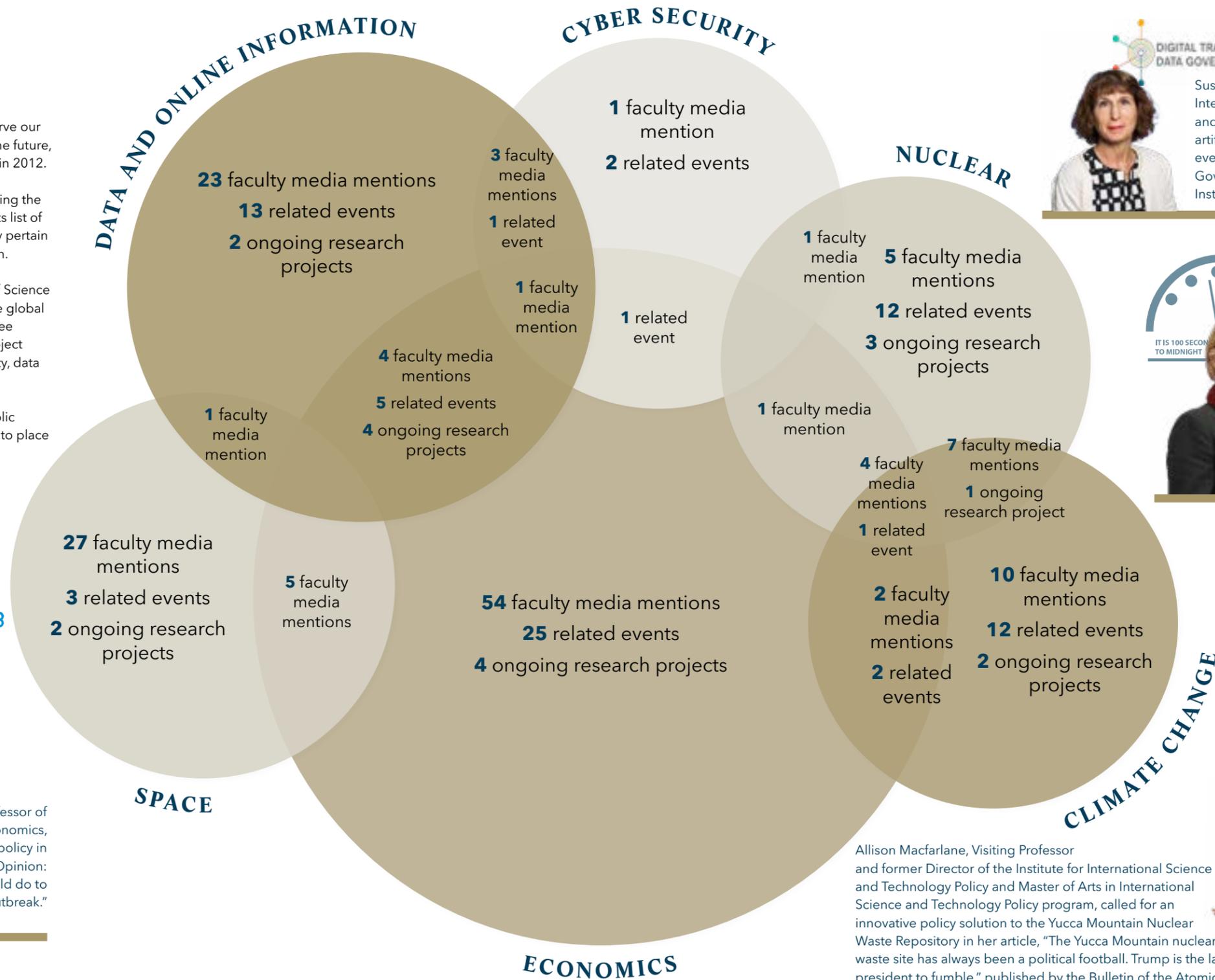
On these pages, you can read about how Elliott faculty expertise, public events, and scholarship in the 2019 - 2020 academic year converged to place us in the vanguard of schools where international affairs and STEM are meeting the future.



In July 2019, Astronauts Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin visited the George Washington University to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11.



Jay Shambaugh, Professor of International Affairs and Economics, advocated for bold fiscal policy in his Marketwatch article, "Opinion: Five things fiscal policy could do to fight the COVID-19 outbreak."



Susan Aaronson, Research Professor of International Affairs, educates policymakers and the public on data governance and artificial intelligence through articles and events with the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, which she directs from the Institute of International Economic Policy.



Sharon Squassoni, Research Professor of International Affairs, was quoted in Science Magazine on the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' decision to symbolically move the minute hand on the Doomsday Clock to 100 seconds to midnight.

**“**  
We are rapidly losing our bearings in the nuclear weapons landscape

Allison Macfarlane, Visiting Professor and former Director of the Institute for International Science and Technology Policy and Master of Arts in International Science and Technology Policy program, called for an innovative policy solution to the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository in her article, "The Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site has always been a political football. Trump is the latest president to fumble," published by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.



## OCTOBER 2019

Hong Kong is rocked by the most widespread unrest since the protests began as China's Communist Party rulers celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic.

There's a sense of cumulative frustration in Hong Kong and worry... but you reach these turning points."

Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice, for *Foreign Affairs Podcast*: #FightforHongKong.



Global Ethics Day



Delta Phi Epsilon Professional Foreign Service Sorority, Elliott School Alumni Programs, and the Leadership, Ethics, and Practice (LEAP) Initiative host a conversation on National Security with **Senator Tammy Duckworth, MA '92, HON '17.**

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION AT The Elliott School

**T**his past year the Elliott School made substantial progress on its plan to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the school. Among its accomplishments were establishing the Office of Diversity Inclusion, increasing student leadership on its Council on Diversity and Inclusion and adding resources for faculty and students on their website. Online resources focus on understanding race and racism for students, inclusive teaching for faculty and educational program archives for the Elliott community.

This fall the Elliott School hired a diversity program manager who provides "significant support" in executing the initiatives from the action plan, according to Jonathan Walker, Assistant Dean for Student Services, Diversity and Inclusion for the Elliott School. Diversity Program Manager, Kylie Stamm quickly jumped into the role. Among Stamm's first initiatives was to hold focus groups that have helped set diversity and inclusion goals for this academic year, and develop programming and events in partnership with cultural organizations at GW.

A team of faculty from the Council on Diversity and Inclusion created an inclusive teaching statement over the summer with resources and examples for professors to make their classes more inclusive for students through inclusive syllabus language, diverse class readings and support resources for students to understand race and report bias-related acts.

"Our faculty and students also worked on developing best practices and recommendations to integrate implicit bias discussions into the core courses of Elliott School students," Walker said.

Stamm said over the course of the year, Elliott School staff created an email newsletter to expand communications within the Elliott School and with

the broader GW community. They also worked to support the creation of the Young Black Professionals in International Affairs student organization.

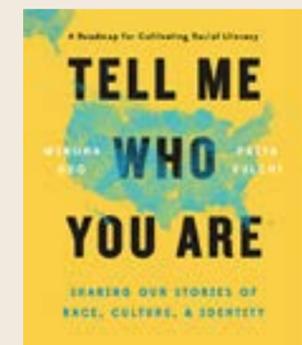
Rollie Lal, Associate Professor of International Affairs and co-chair of the council, said she spent the summer adding online resources for the inclusive teaching statement like the Gender Equality Initiative in International Affairs gender analysis list, which she said can help faculty understand how they can implement gender equality in their course syllabi.

"I think it was a major step forward in really stating that this is important to us as a school, and it is important to us as individuals and we're all going to work on moving forward on this," Lal said.

*This is an edited version. The full article appeared in the September 21, 2020 issue of the GW Hatchet.*



In an on-going partnership with the U.S. State Department, the Elliott School hosted a reception for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Foreign Policy Conference for Black History Month.



### The 2019 Bolivian General Election

Elliott hosts the Ambassador of Bolivia to the United States, Jaime Aparicio, for "Bolivia at the Crossroads."



### 30th Anniversary Celebrations of 1989 Revolutions



**THE VELVET REVOLUTION**  
Elliott hosts an exhibition commemorating the Czechoslovakian Velvet Revolution, with remarks from the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

**THE ROMANIAN REVOLUTION**  
Elliott hosts an Ambassador's Forum with His Excellency George Cristian Maior, LLM '92, the Ambassador of Romania to the United States.



## Engaging THE WORLD FROM A Distance

### **Aisha Kamara, MA '21**

My friends and I stood together with our brothers and sisters at the Friday, August 28, 2020 March on Washington to protest police brutality. In this photo, we took a knee at the Martin Luther King memorial to honor our fallen ones in this fight; No Justice, No Peace!

# SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER FOR 40 YEARS, THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL CONVENES CONFERENCE AT GW TO MARK ANNIVERSARY

*All of us at the conference have been briefers in the White House Situation Room – the Room Where it Happens. We can offer students direct insight into the policymaking process – and help prepare them better for career success.*

**I**n February 2020, the Elliott School hosted a special day-long conference on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the National Intelligence Council (NIC). Entitled “Past as Prologue: 40 Years of the NIC and the Future of Strategic Analysis,” the conference brought together prominent former government officials as well as current members of the Intelligence Community to reflect on how the NIC supports the making of American foreign and national security policy.

It is no surprise that the National Intelligence Council, the leading and most prominent intelligence analysis organization in the U.S. government, sought out the



Christopher A. Kojm serves as the Director of the Elliott School's Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative. He re-joined the school as a Professor of Practice in International Affairs after serving as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council from 2009 to 2014.

Elliott School to host the conference. Its longest-serving Chair, Christopher Kojm, has been a Professor of Practice of International Affairs at the Elliott School since he left the organization in 2014. As Kojm explained, “The conference offered the perfect opportunity to inform our students and faculty about key intelligence challenges, past and present. We were excited to bring this unique event to campus.” Prominent speakers included former Chair of the House Intelligence Committee Mike Rogers; former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; former Deputy Director of the CIA John McLaughlin; and Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Mission Integration Beth Sanner.

Kojm, who also serves as the Elliott School's Director of the Leadership, Ethics and Practice (LEAP) Initiative, commented, “The history of the NIC offers many lessons for our future students who plan to enter government service. How do you speak truth to power? How do you lead an organization through a period of unprecedented technological change – to collect and analyze intelligence, to provide policymakers the best possible insight into the threats they must address?” He added, “All of us at the conference have been briefers in the White House Situation Room – *the Room Where it Happens*. We can offer students direct insight into the policymaking process – and help prepare them better for career success.”

NOVEMBER 2019

30th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall



The Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES) hosts an event commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall with Hope M. Harrison, Associate Professor.



The Elliott School, PISA and the Sigur Center host a five-day series, *Waging Peace in Vietnam*, commemorating U.S. soldiers and veterans who opposed the war, including film screenings, an exhibition and a book launch.

40th Anniversary of the largest anti-Vietnam War Protest in U.S. History





# Faculty Experts WEIGH IN

## Emily Mosely, BA '22

Texas is one of the most conservative states in the country, and making change is both slow and draining. We attended a BLM protest in one of the most COVID-19 infected counties in the state because racial justice matters even during a global pandemic. The "Branding the Brazos" statue in contrast with the protesters reveals how we have yet to fully reconcile with our racist past.

# THE GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Women, War and Peace

**T**he Gender Equality Initiative in International Affairs (GEIA), established in 2017, has been laser focused on exploring the significant role women play in the realm of war, peace and security.

According to GEIA's Director, Dr. Shirley Graham, "since the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000 and its eight sister resolutions making up the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, there has been a rapidly growing interest in the transformative potential of viewing security policy issues through a gender lens."



### WOMEN AND WAR

#### Visual stories

September, 2019

Women's role in peacebuilding kicked off GEIA's Fall 2019 photo exhibition, *Women and War: Evolving the Narrative of Women's Contributions to Peace and Security*. At the exhibition's launch, GEIA research scholar Jessica Smith, creator and curator of the exhibition, shared her experience interviewing more than two dozen women who survived the Bosnian War (1992 - 1995). Smith collected first-hand accounts, using a community-based research method known as **photovoice**.

She put cameras in the hands of 29 women from across Bosnia and Herzegovina and asked them to create visual narratives about their peacebuilding experiences. Visual stories ranged from gardens and handicrafts to photos of loved ones lost to war. "In her work, Jessica reveals the daily ways that women come together to support one another, allowing them to reconcile, to heal and to build sustainable livelihoods," explains Graham.



Photograph taken by Lejla "Looking from the Past towards the Future"

The exhibition continues a collaboration among GEIA, the Elliott School's Leadership, Ethics and Practice (LEAP) Initiative and Global Women's Institute at GW. All the visual exhibitions sponsored by GEIA aim to make visible women's participation and representation in formal and informal political spaces, articulating their visions for a gender equal and peaceful society.

### THE ANNUAL SHAPIRO LECTURE

October, 2019

Adm. Michelle Howard, J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro visiting professor, spoke about the strengths and limitations of the recently published United States Strategy on Women, Peace and Security. Adm. Howard contends the report, while a step in the right direction, lacks a unified approach among U.S. international and domestic focused agencies to effectively advance women's equality, inclusion and economic empowerment.

"We have all of this work going on, and it's related, but we're not actually building....This strategy could be the mortar to put all these bricks together to actually make a cohesive, holistic government response," said Adm. Howard. Further, "one of the key things we have to do is assign someone to be responsible for the lines of effort. Trying to get all of the departments to focus across the lines probably means you're not going to have as much movement."

#### How might this effort succeed?

From the admiral's perspective, the U.S. State Department must muster its forces in one place. Ideally, it would sponsor a NATO Center of Excellence to serve as an international training center. The center would educate members and government leaders on topics centered around women, peace and security.



Admiral Michelle Howard, J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro visiting professor, speaking to the GW community on national security.

"We would then have an ability within the NATO framework to start creating and institutionalizing processes that look at women, peace and security through a gender lens," she said

"These are things we can do right now that don't cost a lot of money. This is achievable! There has been a tremendous amount of work done by our government. I think the strategy outlined is a way to connect it and move forward."

*Synopsis from GW Today*

### JANUARY 2020

On January 3, 2020, a U.S. drone strike targets and kills Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani.

After Soleimani's assassination, a new series of events will unfold. No one can predict these developments, but they will be ever more hostile because those affected will perceive revenge, selfishness, and narrow national interest as their motivating factors with not an ounce of concern or morality from the perpetrators.

Hossein Askari, Professor Emeritus, for *The Globe Post*

The Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication (IPDGC) and the Sigur Center for Asian Studies host a conversation with *The Diplomat's* senior editor on the rising U.S.-Iran tensions and its implications for Asia and Indo-Pacific security.

The Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES) holds a lecture on what it means to be pro-regime in Iran, featuring Narges Bajoghli and her book, *Iran Reframed: Anxieties of Power in the Islamic Republic*.

# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March, 2020

GEIA celebrated International Women's Day by hosting the Women, Peace and Security 2020 Conference. The conference marked 100 years of women's suffrage in the U.S., as well as the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council's resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. With guidance from Graham, a student team produced the conference, from inviting speakers to organizing publicity and logistics. It was a big undertaking and more than twenty volunteers pitched in to ensure success.

Panel discussions convened on women in national and international security and women as agents of change in peace and security. Madeline Elliott, a current graduate student, had the opportunity to moderate the conversation, which explored the importance of women in grassroots movements, political leadership and foreign policy.



Uzra Zeya, CEO and President, Alliance for Peacebuilding; Dr. Shirley Graham, GEIA Director; Bonnie Jenkins, Founder and Executive Director, WCAPS; and Sinam Sherkany Mohamad, founding Co-President, the People's Council of Western Kurdistan (Rojava)

The conference came to a close with a celebratory reception and launch party for a new exhibition, the *Raise Your Voice for Gender Equality Photography Project*. The exhibition featured messages of solidarity from students to women living in areas of violent conflict.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE

March, 2020

Edited from the blog of GEIA Director Dr. Shirley Graham

Just before boarding the State Department bus that would take them to the White House for lunch with the First Lady, Zarifa Ghafari from Wardak Province in Afghanistan, one of the U.S. State Department's ten Women of Courage 2020 Awardees, pressed the small capsule of saffron into my hands assuring me with a bright smile, "it is the best in the world." I looked down and felt a deep pang of sadness at the sight of her burnt hands -- hands that were attacked by a group of men in Afghanistan. Her crime? Being the first woman mayor in her deeply conservative district. She told me that 80 percent of burn victims in Afghanistan are women who have been attacked in similar ways for doing something the Taliban oppose. She said she will not be intimidated, although she knows her life is in danger.

It was a deep privilege and a humbling experience to be able to host the International Women of Courage



International Women of Courage awardees

at the Elliott School for the second year. Each woman is awarded the honor for their work as human rights defenders working on issues as diverse as ending female genital mutilation in Burkina Faso, supporting the families of the disappeared in Syria, drawing attention to the harassment and imprisonment of journalists in Zimbabwe, calling out government corruption in Bolivia, defending the rights of LGBTQ people in Azerbaijan, protecting children from forced recruitment by militias in Yemen, ending gender-based violence in Armenia, and speaking out against the persecution of minority groups in China, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Each of the women shared the terror of living under repressive regimes and the grief at the loss of loved ones.

Each woman told her story with eloquence and passion. Each woman is living under constant threat of harassment and attack. Each woman has hope for a better world, a free and peaceful country, a place where women and men are treated as equals. As the poet, Erin Fornoff says, "If the future's something we have to brace ourselves against, can we find a space in the dark and lift courage from the mess?" I believe that by the simple act of sharing our stories, we are each creating a little more light in the world.

For More Information about GEIA: <https://geia.elliott.gwu.edu/>



IWOC awardees speak to the Elliott School and community about their stories.

The World Health Organization announces a mysterious pneumonia originating in Central China.

The Doomsday Clock moves forward to 100 seconds to midnight.

I have to admit [that] we set the clock in November...This was before recent military actions by the U.S. and Iran, Iran's statement or threat that it might leave the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and North Korea's abandonment of talks with the United States.

Sharon Squassoni, Research Professor, for NPR

IT IS 100 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT



## HONORS AND AWARDS

**James Foster**, Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics, was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for his research with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).



**Hugh Gusterson**, Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs, was awarded the Anthropology in Media Award from the American Anthropological Association.



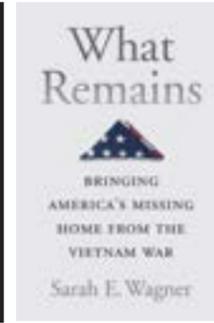
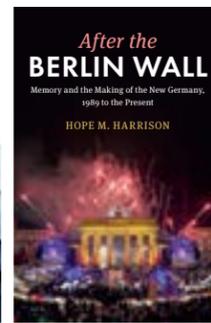
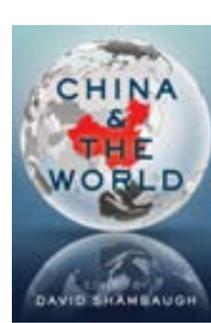
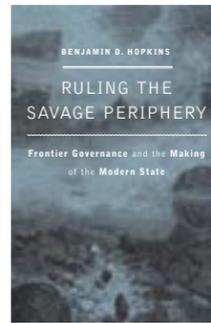
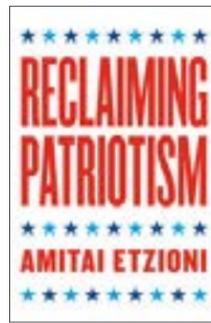
**Graciela Kaminsky**, Professor of Economics and International Affairs, was named one of the top 12 Argentinian economists by El Cronista.



**Eric Kramon**, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, received the GW Office of the Vice President of Research Faculty Award in 2019.



**Sarah E. Wagner**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, won 1st prize in the Victor Turner awards for *What Remains: Bringing America's Missing Home from the Vietnam War*.



## FACULTY BOOKS

**Diego Abente Brun**, *La Democracia del Desencanto*.

**Michael E. Brown** and Chantal de Jonge Oudraat (ed.), *The Gender and Security Agenda: Strategies for the 21st Century*

**Nemata Blyden**, *African Americans and Africa: A New History*.

**Barry Chiswick (ed.)**, *Jews at Work: Their Economic Progress in the American Labor Market*.

**Alexander Dent**, *Digital Pirates: Policing Intellectual Property in Brazil*.

**Mohssen Esseesy**, *Al-Munjiz: Advanced Business Arabic*.

**Amitai Etzioni**, *Reclaiming Patriotism*.

**Hope M. Harrison**, *After the Berlin Wall: Memory and the Making of the New Germany, 1989 to the Present*.

**Benjamin Hopkins**, *Ruling the Savage Periphery: Frontier Governance and the Making of the Modern State*.

**Vincent Ialenti**, *Deep Time Reckoning: How Future Thinking Can Help Earth Now*.

**David Shambaugh**, *China and the World*.

**Robert Sutter**, *The United States and Asia: Regional Dynamics and Twenty-First-Century Relations*, Second Edition.

## SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

**Diego Abente Brun**, appointed to the Project of Political Reforms in Latin America Advisory Council.

**Celeste Arrington**, appointed as a Social Sciences Research Council Research Fellow.

**Fiona Cunningham**, appointed as a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

**Jisoo Kim** was elected Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Korean Studies.

**Marlene Laruelle** was selected as a Russian Fellow of the Open Society Foundation.

**Harris Mylonas**, appointed as the Chair of the Historical Study of States and Regimes Research Network at the Council for European Studies.

**Joseph Pelzman**, appointed Chief Editor of the World Scientific Reference Series on The Economics of the Middle East and North Africa.

**Hilary Silver**, appointed as a Visiting Scholar at the Thomas Mann Haus/Villa Aurora, in Los Angeles in October 2019.

**Nicholas Vonortas**, appointed as the São Paulo Excellence Chair at the University of Campinas in Brazil.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**Richard Grinker** was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for "RAPID: Funerary Practices, Pandemic Confinement, and the Implications for COVID-19 Transmission".

**Henry Hale** was awarded a grant from Harvard College to study Russian-American Relations.

**Henry Hale** and **Marlene Laruelle** were awarded a grant from the Carnegie Foundation of New York for their Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia.

**Alexa Alice Joubin** won a grant from the GW Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER).

**Jisoo Kim** was awarded a grant from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management in Sejong, South Korea.

**Jisoo Kim** was awarded a grant from the Academy of Korean Studies for the Journal of Korean Studies.

**Erwan Lagadec** and **Nina Kelsey** were awarded a grant from the European Union for their Jean Monnet project "The Rise of Subnational Transatlantic Relations: Climate Diplomacy".

**Marlene Laruelle** was awarded a grant from the Department of Defense for her Minerva Defense Education and Civilian University Research program, and another from the Alfred & Jane Ross Foundation for her project "History of Fascism 2020."

**Cynthia McClintock** and Joseph Cerrone (GW PhD candidate) won a grant for their research project "Ranked-choice voting, Runoff, and Democracy: Insights from Maine and Other U.S. States" from the Electoral Reform Research Group at New America.

**Robert Orttung** was awarded a grant from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology to fund publication of the Russian Analytical Digest and energy research in Eurasia.

**Robert Orttung** was awarded a grant from Fredo Arias-King for *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*.

**Robert Orttung** and Irina Olimpieva were awarded a grant from The Fortitude Foundation for a project examining Russian emigres' contribution to the U.S.

**Robert Orttung** and Susan Anenberg (GW Milken School) were awarded a grant from the Belmont Foundation awards for Arctic Community Resilience to Boreal Environmental change: Assessing Risks from fire and disease.

**Robert Orttung** and Dmitry Streletskiy (GW Department of Geography) were awarded a grant for Coastal Ocean Sustainability in a Changing Climate.

**Joseph Pelzman** won a grant from the GW Confucius Institute to study PRC Outward Investment in Israel: A Model of R&D Acquisition.

**Joanna Spear's** Foreign Area Officer Regional Sustainment Initiative Program contract through the Department of Defense was extended for another three years.

**Nicholas Vonortas** was awarded a grant from the GW Confucius Institute for his project "Returnee Academic Entrepreneurship in China".

**Linda Yarr** won a grant from the Russell Family Foundation and a gift from the Chino Cienega Foundation.

The impeachment trial of Donald Trump begins in the U.S. Senate on January 16, 2020.

In the fact-averse world created by Trump, there is no room for ambiguity. Things are black or white; the notion of something gray is unacceptable to many congressional conservatives who refuse to respect facts and witnesses, anyway.

Tara Sonenshine, GW Distinguished Fellow, for *Newsday*

The Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication (IPDGC) hosts Dr. Joseph Nye for the 2020 Walter Roberts lecture.



Joseph Nye spoke on his new book, *Do Morals Matter?: Presidents and Foreign Policy*, which examines the moral reasoning behind foreign policy-making.

# In Memoriam:

## REMEMBERING JANNE NOLAN

Amy Woolf

Janne Nolan was a collector. She collected people, gathering them around her table at the Cosmos Club, in conference rooms at Airlie House and Wye River, and at seminars across the United States and around the world. In my mind's eye, I always see Janne sitting in the center of the room, surrounded by the people she brought into her space. Her tables filled with students and young professionals, academics and issue experts, government officials and practitioners, and retired senior leaders, all brought together to share their views, test their theories, and advocate for their positions. Always in a safe space under the Chatham House rule.

Janne was a fixture in the nuclear weapons and arms control community long before I met her. I knew who she was (and I suppose she knew who I was, as she had participated in CRS programs), but our first real conversation probably occurred about 20 years after I arrived in Washington. A few years later, she invited me to her table at the Cosmos Club and added me to her "collection" of experts. Her invitations almost always took the same form. First I'd get the formal invitation to join the dinner, then I'd receive a short e-mail asking if I could speak for a few minutes to kick off the conversation, then she'd send an e-mail just to tease out ideas and ask for names of other people who she

could collect for her projects. Not that she needed my help. I can count on one hand the number of people who were immune to her collection efforts. And I never felt like I could, or should, say no to the subsequent requests after I'd accepted the first invitation. Maybe that was her method - to offer me entry before telling me the price - but I don't think I would have turned her down even if I knew the details from the start. Because Janne was a collector, and I am glad she collected me.

Janne was also a friend. We had more than a few conversations - over lunch, drinks, dinner or just a walk around London - that will always remain within the "cone of silence." She brought that combination of concerned "mother bear" and "scattered academic" to the meeting, ensuring that lunch turned into an afternoon, that the conversation wandered around the universe and that the problems first set on the table had vanished before the bill arrived. She was also the champion of snarky commentary during professional events if we sat together off to the side or in the back. It was often difficult to resist the urge to burst out laughing at all the wrong moments.

Without Janne, we are all going to miss the sense of belonging to Janne's secret society - a place where people from different professional circles,

*Without Janne, we are all going to miss the sense of belonging to Janne's secret society - a place where people from different professional circles, different generations and different points of view could share wine and popovers and have (mostly civilized) conversations.*

different generations, and different points of view could share wine and popovers and have (mostly civilized) conversations. We are going to miss all the conversations we are not going to have, unless we find a way to recreate, or at least approximate, the sense of community - between and among those with different points of view - that Janne built and sustained for us. And we will certainly miss her efforts to generate ideas for how we can sustain interest in nuclear issues and work toward the shared goals of reducing nuclear risks from the solid, fact-based center of our policy world.

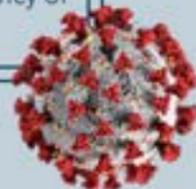
I will - I do - miss my friend Janne.

*Amy Woolf is a professor at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at Georgetown University.*



Janne E. Nolan, Research Professor of International Affairs (1951-2019)

The World Health Organization (WHO) declares the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.



The UK officially withdraws from the European Union January 31, 2020.

### FEBRUARY 2020

Elliott hosts a conversation with **Bill Taylor**, the former ambassador who was one of the key witnesses in Trump's impeachment hearings.



If every story has a hero, [Bill] Taylor is nominated. A committed public servant and foreign affairs expert, Taylor is the person you want alongside in a bad situation."

Tara Sonenshine, GW Distinguished Fellow, for *Newsday*



## Research THAT'S Relevant

### **Sarah Urtz, BA '22**

Protestors march outside the Colorado State Capitol building in Denver, Colorado on May 30, 2020 to protest the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, and others.



**Bob Ortung**

*Research Professor of International Affairs  
Director of Research, Sustainable GW*

## Exploring Arctic Urban Sustainability at the Elliott School

How viable is modern life in the Arctic? This question is at the center of an on-going research project at the Elliott School measuring the level of urban sustainability in the Arctic countries of Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Greenland (Kingdom of Denmark), Canada and the U.S. Finding answers required bringing together a multinational, multidisciplinary team of experts with knowledge of the situation on the ground in the various northern countries as well as specific types of knowledge,

including architecture, urban planning, climate science, sociology, geography, economics and political science. Co-investigators Robert Ortung, Marlene Laruelle, Nikolay Shiklomanov and Dmitry Streletskiy have done that by working across GW and with partners at a variety of U.S. and foreign universities.

Nearly a dozen student researchers are helping to collect data for the project. Specifically, they are using the 128 indicators identified by the international standard for sustainable cities and communities (ISO 37120). To date, the project team has collected most of the quantitative data as well as a variety of in-depth city case studies and is now working toward a comprehensive analysis. We hope to show how the different elements of sustainability relate to each other and how they shape the sustainability of cities. The project has already resulted in numerous peer-reviewed articles and a couple of books, with many more in the pipeline.



**James Foster**

*Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics  
Director of the Institute for International Economic Policy*

## The Role of Inequality in Poverty

When formulating strategies against poverty, dozens of governments around the world make use of the clarity and precision provided by the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) introduced in 2011 by Sabina Alkire of Oxford and James Foster of the Elliott School. The MPI reveals the composition of poverty - for example, whether it is primarily low education or poor health or meager living standards - thus permitting governments to fashion a different mix of policies for each region and budget accordingly. Yet the MPI does not consider inequality among the poor in its determination

of poverty and its composition. Can inequality be included? In their newest work, Alkire and Foster introduce a class of multidimensional measures of poverty having a subclass that incorporates inequality. But there is a problem. The new measures that take into account *inequality* among the poor have no clear way of determining the *composition* of poverty. They make use of a tool from game theory called the Shapley value (which Foster has taught in an undergraduate game theory class at the Elliott School) to derive an intuitive composition formula. Governments concerned about inequality in poverty can use the new technology to assess the contributions of components to overall poverty for a measure that is sensitive to inequality among the poor. The new tools are illustrated using data from Cameroon.

Technology leads to increased security concerns.

In 2018, the U.S. government prohibited defence department employees from using geolocation features in operational areas. The U.S. also told a Chinese firm that owned an LGBT dating site, Grindr, it must sell the site, reflecting concerns that Chinese entities might tie this very personal data to other data sets.

Susan Aaronson, Research Professor and Director of the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, for SCMP Global Impact

Students deliver a letter calling for fossil fuel divestment to President LeBlanc's home on the GW campus.

The U.S. declares a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19.





**Jisoo Kim**

Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History, International Affairs, and East Asian Languages and Literatures  
Director, GW Institute for Korean Studies

## The Strength of Korean Humanities in the Nation's Capital

One of the important missions of the GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS) is to diversify Korea-related discussions in the nation's capital. In order to execute this mission, GWIKS has been supporting and co-organizing the Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities Series with the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. This colloquium provides a forum for academic discussion of Korean arts, history, language, literature, thought and

religious systems in the context of East Asia and the world. The 27th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium held in November 2019 focused on the K-Pop industry, the contemporary style of Korean pop music that has become popular around the world. The speakers examined diverse aspects of K-Pop: state-initiated efforts to employ the Korean Wave as a currency of soft power, corporate infrastructure, global fan practices that contribute to the transnational flow of popular culture, cultural appropriation, the production of idols and the connections between K-Pop and Korean diasporic as well as other non-Korean communities. In addition to the renowned scholars of K-Pop, we also invited non-academic speakers such as Imelda Ibarra, the president of U.S. BTS ARMY, and Bora Kim, the founder of boy group EXP-Edition. Over a hundred participants, including students, scholars, and other D.C. metropolitan area community members, joined us for this year's engaging discussions.



**Lucia M. Rafanelli**

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

## Exploring Ethical Issues in International Affairs

My main research interests lie at the intersection of ethics and international affairs. My current book project, *Promoting Justice Across Borders: Political Theory for the New Global Politics*, develops ethical standards for what I call *reform intervention*—a broad category, encompassing any deliberate attempt to promote justice in a foreign society.

In our increasingly interconnected world, participants in global politics, including states, corporations, NGOs, activist networks and even individuals, have ever more opportunities to exert political influence

beyond their societies' borders. They do so using a wide variety of different tactics, such as persuasion, consumer boycotts, economic sanctions and military force, often in the name of justice promotion. This raises an important ethical question: when, if ever, are attempts to promote justice in other societies—reform interventions—morally justified? The book develops a vision of conscientious global political contestation undertaken by both *participating in* and *opening up our own societies* to reform intervention. It articulates a new way of thinking about what it means to treat people in other societies well—not by leaving them to tend to their own affairs or insisting they leave us to tend to ours, but by engaging with them in political contestation to advance the cause of justice.

“The reason why we don't have a vaccine for this virus is that it's a novel virus. We've never seen it before. So it's on day zero of the detection that vaccine development can begin....It'll take up to a year from that day zero until the time that clinical trials can be done in humans. And that says nothing about distribution on the international relations side.

Ron Waldman, Professor of Global Health, for *Foreign Affairs*  
Podcast: *Coronavirus: The International Implications*

“Someone has to take responsibility for the ongoing spread of the coronavirus, and [Xi Jinping] may not want to be that person.

Bruce Dickson, Professor, for *The Washington Post*

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports the world is heading towards a pandemic.

“There are a lot of reasons to think we don't have a lot of tools for [widespread quarantines]....It's more of a supply-side issue, and we can't do a whole lot to stimulate supply. And if it does trickle over into demand, it will be a real test of whether the Fed has any firepower left and whether we have appetite for the kind of fiscal stimulus that's actually impactful.

Tara Sinclair, Associate Professor, for *The New York Times*



# THE **New** **Normal**

**Lalitha Shanmugasundaram BA '24**

The new normal: wearing masks.

MARCH 2020

WHO declares a pandemic, with 55 countries confirming cases.



GW transitions to fully online operations and classes. Students are asked not to return after Spring Break or make arrangements to go home by April 5. Staff are transitioned to telework full time.

International Olympic Committee suspends the Summer Olympics until 2021.

Travel ban on non-U.S. citizens traveling from Europe into the United States goes into effect.

U.S. officially reports the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the world, surpassing Italy and China.

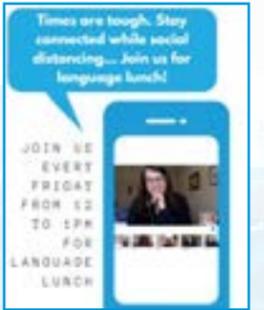
Elliott School alumna **Rose Gottemoeller, MA '81**, spoke to a mostly virtual audience about the state of the Transatlantic Alliance over Facebook Live.



# VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING SPOTLIGHTS:

## 1. GSS Virtual Language Lunches

Spotted in the weekly Elliott School events newsletter in March: weeks of canceled and postponed Elliott School and GW events, and one bright, shiny glimmer of hope -- a "Virtual Language Lunch." Before any other programming shifted to an online format, the Graduate Student Services team made their weekly language practices available for students hoping to keep their language skills sharp. Open to all undergraduate and graduate students, the Language Lunches at the Elliott School are designed to break students up into small groups to hold discussions on current events and work on expanding vocabulary and increasing proficiency. At GW, many students use these as opportunities to practice for the Language Proficiency exams which are required for most Elliott School MA programs and all undergraduate majors. The Virtual Language Lunches provided consistency and sense of normalcy for students amidst all of the cancelations, TBDs, and changes.



## 2. Online Admitted Student Day

In "normal" times, the Elliott School Admissions Office hosts both an on-campus and online Admitted Student Day for students to attend informational sessions and speak with their potential future faculty members and peers. The structure for a fully online admitted student day was there; the trick was engaging every student admitted in the largest International Affairs program offered in the United States. The students were ready to learn more, and the registrations increased by 75% from past Online Admitted Student Days while faculty and staff were trained on how best to present their subjects to an online audience. Q&A structured sessions were scheduled throughout the day for students to pop in, listen and submit their questions. Panels with current students and alumni allowed the admitted students to have candid discussions about life during and after their academic career. Presentations on Career Services, Study Abroad, Global Capstone, and other programs gave students the information they needed to strategically plan their next few years at the Elliott School.



## 3. Elliott Experts Weigh In

Despite everyone staying apart at home this spring, the Elliott School worked tirelessly to keep the community together. One solution was creating a virtual event series featuring experts diving deeper than the daily news on how the pandemic was affecting the world -- from Europe to financial markets to Transatlantic relations to the global economic system. The series, "Elliott Experts Weigh In," was held on WebEx with faculty and alumni guest speakers presenting the themes and issues and then answering questions from the virtual audience. Experts included Elliott School Professors Hope Harrison and Kimberly Morgan, who discussed Europe's response to the coronavirus, and alumni such as Diana Henriques, BA '69, a financial journalist who focused on the pandemic's impact on financial markets. The series received overwhelmingly positive feedback with more than 250 attendees from around the world for the live events and over 300 additional views of the recordings on the YouTube playlist.



# A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

## Anatomy of a Graduation

**A**t the Elliott School, approximately 800 B.A. and M.A. graduates cross the stage each June. Preparing for the annual three-hour ceremony starts about 24 hours after the last ceremony finishes with pomp and circumstance still playing in our heads.

By January things begin to get really busy. The checklist of tasks numbers more than 100 and each task leads to a domino of others. The sequence and checklists have been honed to perfection by years of graduations. Methodically ticking off tasks and minding the timeline leads to a satisfyingly orchestrated day with everyone playing their part: grads in cap and gown, proud parents, siblings, and grandparents in the stands waving, faculty on the platform in doctoral robes and colorful regalia looking appropriately erudite.

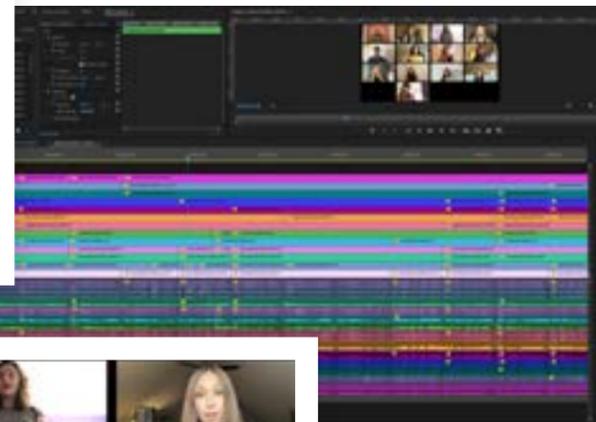
Timing the ceremony at the Smith Center is critical. Every second counts because GW's numerous schools hold back to back graduations from Friday through Saturday. Turnover time between ceremonies is a mere 30 minutes. During that window 800 graduates and 5000 spectators have to exit and another 5800 enter. If the ceremony extends beyond its allotted three hours, that eats into the minutes needed to empty and fill the facility.

The volunteers are like magic elves. They take tickets, show people to their seats, line up the nervous graduates, cue the music, place programs on seats and 1000 other invisible tasks. Weather is always a wildcard. Traditionally, the day arrives either scorchingly hot and humid; parents melt on the sidewalk waiting to be allowed in, or it's a downpour with 5000 people trying to crowd into whatever shelter they can find.

But in March after the university made the difficult decision to tell students not to return to campus after spring break, the question of what does this mean for graduation sank slowly into our consciousness. You might think our initial reaction would be relief. It wasn't.

Pulling off a seamless graduation each year is a big lift, but it's one we've lifted before. No one had ever orchestrated virtual graduation. No one even knew what it might look like. We had exactly 12 weeks and one day to make it happen.

The deans of each school tasked their staff to come up with ideas. What were other universities doing? None of them had published a plan yet. It looked like we were all in the same boat trying to figure it out.



*Pulling off a seamless graduation each year is a big lift, but it's one we've lifted before. No one had ever orchestrated virtual graduation. No one even knew what it might look like. We had exactly 12 weeks and one day to make it happen.*

What if we made all the students a computer generated avatar and they walked the stage Sim City style? Hmm, sounds complicated. We didn't have time for complicated. What about online degree programs, how did they hold graduations? Turns out, they hold them online. That was a start. The dean could at least record his remarks. At this stage in the pandemic, we were still in full lockdown, so the option of sending a videographer to tape the dean at home or at the school wasn't an option. The dean got a crash course in Webex recording, a backdrop and tripod were delivered to his porch.

Now for the students, how to incorporate them. One thing we felt certain was that students still wanted to be recognized individually for their achievement, and parents still wanted to hear their child's name called. Everyone wanted pomp and circumstance. Our speaker, Ambassador Nicholas Burns, still wanted to give remarks. Ultimately, we came up with the idea of a PowerPoint slideshow. Sounds boring, but it was simple and simple solutions are usually the best.

Communications went out to all the graduating seniors. We started a social media campaign to increase awareness, the slides started to come in. Out of 800 or so eligible graduates, close to 500 responded with a slide.

At the appointed hour, staff all gathered in front of their respective screens as the countdown clock ran down, and at last the ceremony began. Our team let out a collective sigh of relief as the dean's remarks began on time with no glitches. The GW acapella group, the Pitches, blinked on screen and sang the Star Spangled Banner, and the name readers proudly called the names of the graduates. The virtual ceremony received over 7000 views on YouTube. And as we watched together, yet apart, we all agreed, this was a year like no other.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!**



Rilind Abazi

B.A. International Affairs

38

Signa tes Wite  
The Norman H. Friend Prize

We may encounter many  
defeats, but we must not be  
defeated.  
- Dr. Maya Angelou

Naja Kierra Nelson

B.A. International Affairs

2019-2020 GW NAACP President



Emily Marie Parker

B.A. in International  
Affairs, Minor in  
Arabic Studies



"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble  
struggle for equal rights. This will make a greater person of  
you, a greater citizen of your country, and a finer world to  
live in."  
- The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Simon Teame Adhanom

M.A. International Economic  
Policy



"IF YOU DON'T SACRIFICE  
FOR WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT  
YOU WANT BECOMES THE  
SACRIFICE"

Alex Andres Aguilera

M.A. Security Policy Studies



WED ALKHATER

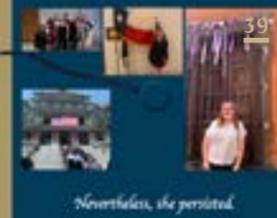
M.A. International Affairs



Concentration: U.S. Foreign Policy/Trade Deal  
  
"To the most powerful woman in  
my world, who supported me  
from the beginning, to my  
mother Thuayya.

Paige Biebas Patrick

M.A. Security Policy  
Studies



Nevertheless, she persisted.

Emma Anderson

B.A. International Affairs

Magna Cum Laude, Women's Leadership Program



Caitlin McKenzie Ard

M.A. International Affairs



"The future belongs to those  
who believe in the beauty of  
their dreams."  
-Eleanor Roosevelt

Zitong Qiu

B.A. International Affairs  
and Philosophy



"Have we tried turning 2020 off  
and back on again? Or putting it  
in reverse?"

Grace Elizabeth Barrett

B.A. Middle East Studies  
Minor in Arabic Studies  
Minor in French Language,  
Literature, & Culture



"First, think. Second, dream. Third, believe. And  
finally, dare." - Walt Disney  
  
"Go confidently in the direction of your dream! Live the  
life you've imagined." - Henry David Thoreau

Elliott S. Burgess

M.A. Latin American and  
Hemispheric Studies



"Queen deesse ver a arq-its, pmissa  
sponda a golar de chuda.  
"To enjoy the melody, first enjoy the  
rain."  
- Paulo Coelho

Diana Rojas Cruz

B.A. International Affairs

Minor Business Administration



Olivia Parker

B.A. International Affairs



"A person who thinks all the time  
Has nothing to think about except  
thoughts  
So, he loses touch with reality  
And lives in a world of illusions"  
- Alan Watts

Diana Correa-Gulo

Master in International Policy  
and Practice



Word Health Organization (WHO) WHO  
  
"If you're always trying to be  
normal you will never know how  
extraordinary you can be." -Marilyn  
Monroe

Aaditya Divekar

B.A. International Affairs

Signa No



FATA ACQUOI

M.A. INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS



"(S)he who wishes to serve  
(her) country must have not  
only the power to think, but the  
will to act." - Plato

Taylor Nicole Dressel

M.A. Security Policy Studies



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful individuals can change the world."

Katie Lenora Ford

M.A. International  
Development Studies



"There is good in this world, and  
it's worth fighting for."  
- J. R. R. Tolkien

Eli Craveiro Frankel

B.A. International Affairs

LOST & Sexuality Studies Minor, ST Tunisia & Italy



Johanna-Christine Frederick

M.A. Security Policy Studies

From New York, New York



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

Hunter Gilfillan

M.A. International Affairs



"And that's just the way it is."  
- Ted Poe

Angela Yam

M.A. International Affairs



"What's the  
point in being  
alive,  
if you don't at least try  
to do something  
remarkable?"

Yacen Zhang

M.A. International Trade and  
Investment Policy



"A journey of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step."  
- Laozi

Genevieve M. Jesse

M.A. International Affairs



"No everything that is forced can be changed, but  
nothing can be changed until it is forced."  
- James Baldwin

Avery Frances Kennedy

M.A. International Affairs



"We need to remember  
what's important in life:  
friends, waffles, work. Or  
waffles, friends, work.  
Doesn't matter, but work is  
third." - Leslie Knope

McKenna Currey Kestler

B.A. International Affairs



"Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist  
in creating out of void but out of chaos."  
- Mary Shelley

Christopher Harden



"Live the life you love. Love the life you live." - Bob  
Marley

Trevor Christian Howe

M.A. European and Eurasian  
Studies



"The sun is the same in a  
relative way but you're older..."  
-Pink Floyd, Time

Genevieve M. Jesse

M.A. International Affairs



"We need to remember  
what's important in life:  
friends, waffles, work. Or  
waffles, friends, work.  
Doesn't matter, but work is  
third." - Leslie Knope

Avery Frances Kennedy

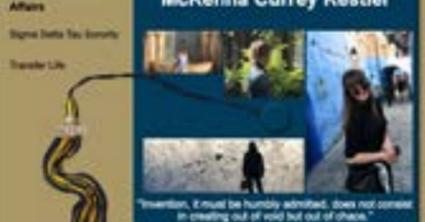
M.A. International Affairs



"Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist  
in creating out of void but out of chaos."  
- Mary Shelley

Renata Knittel Kommel

M.A. International Science and Technology Policy



"Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist  
in creating out of void but out of chaos."  
- Mary Shelley

Deborah Munganga

M.A. International Development Studies



"Don't count the days; make the  
days count." - Muhammad Ali

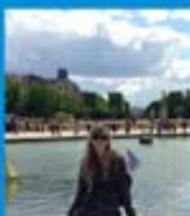
Alejandra Ureta

B.A. International Affairs



Emily Marie Love

M.A. European and Eurasian  
Studies



"She turned her car's into cans  
and her dreams into plans."  
-Kobi Yamada

Sarah Lutz

M.A. Security Policy Studies

Elliott School Graduate Board Treasurer



Rachel S Yakobashvili

Bachelor of Arts in  
International Affairs



"I have caused a lot of  
problems in the world but  
has not yet solved one ..."  
- Maya Angelou

Kristen Mitchell

M.A. Global Communication

Concentration in Global Gender Policy



Daniel Sweeney

M.A. International  
Development Studies



"Don't count the days; make the  
days count." - Muhammad Ali

Deborah Munganga

M.A. International Development Studies



"Don't count the days; make the  
days count." - Muhammad Ali



## Alumni MEETING THE MOMENT

### Jiaxiu Han, MA '21

Elliott undergrad Kewei Gong moves and packs medical supplies into postal boxes at a warehouse in Maryland for an international cargo flight to China.

# MEETING THE MOMENT

The past year has offered no shortage of challenges – the type that transcend borders, race, religion and party. Our school's mission is to “Build Leaders for the World,” training those who pass through 1957 E Street to tackle the world's most pressing challenges. Here are the stories of some Elliott School alumni, who stepped up to meet the moment, in their own unique way. They are just a few of the many of those who stepped up in a time of need this year, underscoring the leadership and empathy exhibited by Elliott School alumni every day.



l to r: U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Kiple, and Vice President Mike Pence at the General Motors plant in Kokomo, IN. (Photo courtesy of Ventec Life Systems)

## Boosting Ventilator Production in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic

**Chris Kiple, BA '06, JD '12**

*Chief Executive Officer, Ventec Life Systems*

The first confirmed coronavirus death in the United States in February was less than 10 miles away from Seattle-based Ventec Life Systems. Chris Kiple, BA '06, heard from numerous state and government officials about the massive increase in demand for ventilators, which Ventec manufactures. With a total of 60,000-80,000 ventilators made globally each year, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's call for 30,000 in New York alone made it clear that something had to change to meet the incredible surge in demand needed to respond to the pandemic. Through a partnership with General Motors, Kiple has led Ventec from making 150-200 ventilators per month, to over 12,000, working

to supply the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile. Hosting officials like Vice President Mike Pence, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, and Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, Kiple has made it clear that Ventec is ready to respond at scale, using skills developed during his time at GW and in Foggy Bottom to bring their niche product to the forefront of the country's attention.

## Asking the Question: “What if this could look different?”

**Brooke Pearson, MIPP '16**

*Staff Program Manager, Security Awareness, Uber*

In the tech industry, disruption is sought as a way to shake up the space, develop new products and platforms and create the next big thing. Disruption as it has happened so far in 2020, has forced tech to a stark moment of introspection. In a year that has seen massive social mobilization following the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Brooke Pearson, MIPP '16, has used her platform, achievements, voice, and experience to ask a pertinent question “What if this could look different?” Pearson joined a social media movement called Share the Mic in Cyber, one of many similar initiatives that appeared in 2020. Share the Mic enables influencers and those in positions of power to amplify the voices of advocates and allies in discussing the racial issues that dominate the news all while showing that representation matters. Having worked at the Department of State and Facebook before joining Uber, she is no stranger to workplaces that struggle to fully grasp the lack of diversity in not just their workforce, but in the products and services they provide. By offering her passion, energy, talent and platform, Pearson is talking about the experience of being Black in America, to an audience that until recently, wasn't listening closely enough.



Pearson at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, CA. (Photo courtesy of Brooke Pearson)



Gideon arrives in the House chamber after being re-elected to her Speakership in late 2018 at the Maine State House in Augusta, ME. (Robert F. Bukaty/Associated Press)

## All Eyes on Maine: Running for U.S. Senate in Race Gathering National Attention

**Sara Gideon, BA '94**

*Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, Candidate for U.S. Senate*

In a year with countless close election races, Sara Gideon, BA '94, finds herself in a battle for a U.S. Senate seat in Maine. Facing incumbent Sen. Susan Collins, Gideon has garnered national attention to her race, even drawing an endorsement from former President Barack Obama. First elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 2012, and then as Speaker in 2016, Gideon is familiar with difficult political fights. She has built a platform on issues such as Medicaid expansion, clean energy and fighting the opioid epidemic, and under her leadership, Maine has passed several key climate change bills. With just months remaining in the race, a virtual tie in the polls, national attention and the

pressures of an ongoing pandemic, Gideon isn't backing down, and hopes she will be able to represent her state in Washington, in 2021.

## Uncovering a Secret Russian Unit Working to Destabilize Western Governments

**Michael Schwartz, MA '05**

*Investigative Reporter, The New York Times*

During his reporting investigation on Russian efforts to destabilize foreign powers around the world, a source texted Michael Schwartz, MA '05, to cancel a meeting. “It's too dangerous. Somebody's watching you.” Schwartz and his team “showed how the Kremlin has staged a shadow war to destabilize the West, chase profits and undermine democracy around the world,” said Michael Slackman, the assistant managing editor who offered comments to the New York Times newsroom after it was announced that Schwartz and four others had received a Pulitzer Prize for their reporting. Schwartz authored four articles that were in the Pulitzer-winning package, including an interview he conducted with a Russian assassin and an investigation that uncovered a secret Russian group working against Western governments. Schwartz's natural curiosity and passion for his work only strengthened following the Pulitzer nod. Months later, he would write the revealing scoop that Russia had paid bounties to the Taliban to kill U.S. troops. He has made it clear that he is an authority on Russia and shows no signs of slowing down.



Schwartz interviewing Oleg Smorodinov, a Russian assassin, in a courthouse in western Ukraine. (Joseph Sywenkyj/The New York Times)



Bakaj pictured in his office. (Photo courtesy of Andrew Bakaj)

### Protecting the Identity of the Whistleblower during the 2020 Impeachment Hearings

**Andrew Bakaj, BA '03**

*Managing Partner, Compass Rose Legal Group*

Through his experience as an investigator in the inspector general's offices at both the CIA and Department of Defense, and as an intelligence officer, Andrew Bakaj, BA '03, understands the important role of a whistleblower. While serving in government, he helped develop the legal apparatus and investigative procedure to protect Intelligence Community whistleblowers. Having such intimate knowledge of the process, Bakaj, now working as an attorney for national security cases, guided the Whistleblower - who raised concerns of President Donald Trump's phone call

with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky - through each step of the process, resulting in the complaint being forwarded to Congress. Bakaj then faced a gargantuan fight to keep the identity of his client anonymous, while global attention on the impeachment inquiry focused on the concerns raised by that individual. Through his work, Bakaj has faced serious threats himself, all in defense of his firm belief that whistleblowers should remain free to come forward with concerns about government conduct without fear of reprisal or threats of harm.

### Using Food as an Agent of Change

**Alexandra Garcia, MIPP '14**

*Chief Program Officer, World Central Kitchen*

José Andrés and the relief organization he founded in 2010, World Central Kitchen (WCK), have become critical first responders to disasters around the world - often the first to mobilize local staff and begin hunger relief efforts, while filling the gaps left by traditional aid organizations. While the emergency responses of WCK often take center stage, when the focus shifts to the next disaster, Alexandra Garcia, MIPP '14, gets to work. Garcia spearheads the long-term impact and resilience initiatives of the organization which now has a staff of nearly 50. On a given day, she may find herself directing efforts to promote clean cookstove use in schools in the Caribbean and Latin America, working with local farms, chefs and food industry workers to promote sustainable food supply chains, or organizing culinary trainings to build the capacity of local communities. She points out that "we can't just walk away" once the emergency programs end. "Food touches everything. Culture, education, families and children," Garcia says, and when the world turns its attention elsewhere, her work mobilizing communities to use food as an agent of change begins.



Garcia visiting a WCK program on the island of Abaco, The Bahamas. (Photo courtesy of World Central Kitchen)



Senator Duckworth speaks to a GW audience in October 2019.

### Putting Veterans and Mothers First in the Political Arena

**Tammy Duckworth, MA '92, HON '17**

*U.S. Senator (D - Ill.)*

Well known to the GW community, Senator Tammy Duckworth, MA '92, has shown her values through her military service, unfaltering support of wounded veterans - both through service in private efforts and government veterans organizations - and through her groundbreaking steps for women in government. In 2018, Duckworth became the first senator to cast a vote on the Senate floor with her newborn at her side. This year, while her name has appeared in the news as a possible choice to be Joe Biden's Vice Presidential choice, she has spoken at length about the challenges mothers face during the coronavirus pandemic, even serving on

the bipartisan committee to re-open the economy and provide aid to families in need. She has walked the walk, passing legislation that puts mothers and women first, then returning to the Elliott School to speak with students on female national leadership. Her appearances embody the character traits she holds close, always encouraging others to stand up for what they believe to create change, much in the way she has.

### Moderating the Largest Presidential Primary Debate in History

**Marc Lacey, MIPP '02**

*National Editor, The New York Times*

When the phone rang one night in fall 2019, Marc Lacey, MIPP '02, ignored it. It rang again, and he ignored it again. With several more calls from the number while he was watching the presidential debate, he finally answered. It turned out it was the political editor of *The New York Times* who had just found out that the newspaper would be co-sponsoring the next Democratic Primary Debate. Lacey learned, after laughing in disbelief, that *The New York Times* leadership had proposed him for the moderator role. No stranger to navigating a fast-paced and challenging environment, Lacey has experience editing for *The Times*, covering international news and weekend coverage, and coaching a large team of national correspondents and editors scattered throughout the country. These skills conducting a symphony of activity made him the perfect person to steer the 12 candidates participating in the largest presidential debate in history through two hours of debate.



Lacey (right) moderating the Democratic Primary Debate in Westerville, OH, alongside CNN's Anderson Cooper and Erin Burnett in October 2019. (John Minchillo/AP Photo)



# Philanthropy LEADS THE WAY

**Ryan Atassi, BA '24**

Socially Distant Graduation on the steps of the Charleston levee.

# KNOWING THE WORLD STARTS FROM KNOWING A SPECIFIC PLACE

If we're going to be international relations specialists, we need to be able to see the world from a different perspective. The only way we can do that is by going somewhere else.

**T**oday's world is a global village, and tomorrow's global leaders will need intimate knowledge of cultures other than their own.

At Elliott, we start early, offering students many ways to gain on-the-ground experience around the world – through internships, field research, and study abroad. **Thanks to our philanthropic community, we are able to provide grants to enable students to pursue opportunities to conduct field research across the map, from Ireland to Myanmar.**

The much-coveted **GW Undergraduate Research Award**, for instance, which goes to a select few each year, provides a generous stipend for high-level student research projects guided by faculty mentors.

Elliott students frequently undertake research that takes them far from Washington, D.C., to nations unlike our own, where they gain invaluable **cultural perspective**, as well as hone their research skills.

Where do our students go, and what do they learn?

For **Sarala Duckworth, BA '20**, the answer lay both near and far from home. She had grown up hearing stories from her grandmother, a “superwoman” who spent her childhood in Nepal, leaving school early on to care for younger siblings. Her grandmother's life became an inspiration for Sarala, and she sets her sights high.

Among other goals, she aspires to help at-risk youth in nations struggling with crises, such as extreme climate change and internal conflicts.

And when junior year wrapped up, Sarala did just that, journeying **more than 8,000 miles to Myanmar**, a nation frequently in the news these days. With



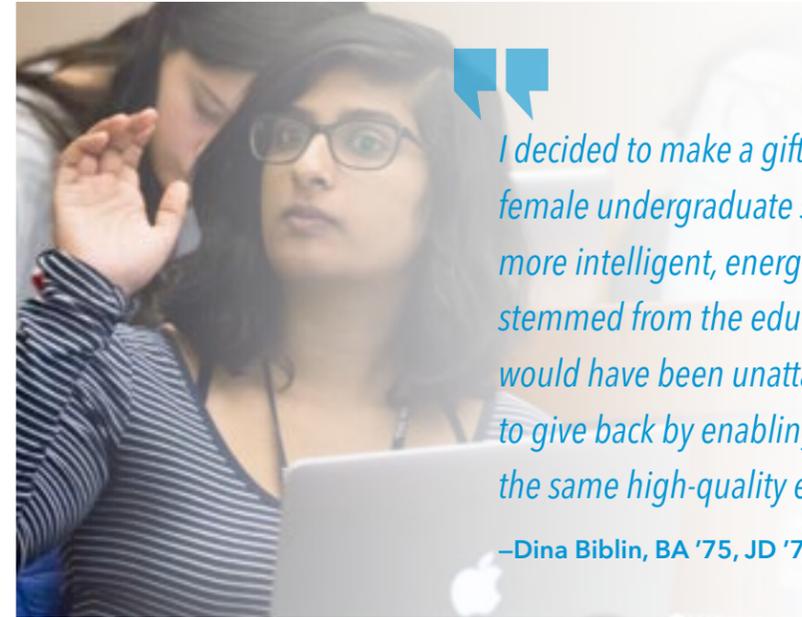
support from her GW grant, she worked as a research intern for UNICEF's Emergency Unit in Yangon, the nation's capital city.

Immediately, Sarala learned that theory and practice often differ. She had planned to focus on at-risk children in a single, flood-ravaged region. Once in the field, the project grew much larger.

“I consulted with UNICEF, and my project expanded to children in all states and to include other risk variables, such as climate change vulnerability, socio-economic vulnerability and local capacity to absorb and recover from natural disaster,” Sarala says.

Sarala graduated from GW's Elliott School in May 2020, virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She now works at the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, a major NGO that develops programs to assist marginalized people in poor and conflict-prone parts of the world.

Her work at UNICEF paved the way. “UNICEF is working tirelessly on many of the key issues in my study. **I'm really grateful to have been a part of their work in some small way.**”



*I decided to make a gift of an endowed scholarship for outstanding female undergraduate students because I believe the world needs more intelligent, energetic, and creative women leaders. My own career stemmed from the education and opportunities I received at GW. Those would have been unattainable for me without financial assistance. I want to give back by enabling other deserving young women to gain access to the same high-quality education from which I benefited.*

—Dina Biblin, BA '75, JD '78

## YOUR PHILANTHROPY TRANSFORMS OUR WORLD

In the words of one graduating senior, philanthropy has “incredible impact on the GW campus and the lives of students to come. Your generosity supports so much!”

**To learn more, please visit the Elliott School Giving website or GW Giving.**

**From all of us, to all of you, thank you for all you do.**



# LEARNING TO LEAD

Ambassador Reuben E. Brigety II, former Elliott School dean and an accomplished diplomat, knows firsthand why leadership matters. **Solutions to many of the world's most vexing challenges exist**, he notes. Yet the world "is always in need of strong leaders who have the skills, the experience and the ethical underpinnings to bring about peace and stability in our world."

Putting his belief into action, Ambassador Brigety established a signature Elliott program known as LEAP, for Leadership, Ethics and Practice. LEAP's mission is succinct: to educate students to become visionary yet practical - as well as ethical - leaders in global affairs.

LEAP equips students with professional skills and knowledge critical to **understanding the global ecosystem** - a foundation they must have if they are to lead with skill and grace, as well as thrive in their own careers. Through targeted coursework, guest speakers, internships, and other learning opportunities, the LEAP program is laser focused on ensuring students have what it takes to effect positive change.

**While still relatively young, LEAP already is an incubator for new ideas, redefining the Elliott curriculum, as well as being a hub for dynamic conversations about global leadership.**

Now, thanks to many generous donors, the Elliott School has an endowment to strengthen and secure LEAP's future. Members of our Board of Advisors generously established this important fund, and it is growing through the philanthropy of the broader Elliott community.



When **Sara and Michael Craig-Scheckman**, parents of a member of the class of 2020, first heard Dean Brigety speak, they were struck by how much his view meshed with their own, and decided to support LEAP, because "thoughtful and collective leadership is more important now than ever."



*Our family believes in the strength of empowered community engagement and being of service, and it has been an honor to support the Elliott School. We are heartened to know that our support is helping to create genuine social change in our country and abroad.*

—Sara Craig-Scheckman

## Elliott School of International Affairs

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