Rethink THE World
2019-2020 STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Elliott School of International Affairs
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ELLIOTT SCHOOL BOARD OF ADVISORS, 2019 – 2020

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Former Executive Director, McCain Institute for International Leadership

MR. AARON WILLIAMS
Senior Advisor for Government Relations, RTI International

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.
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.

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2019–2020 State of the School, I realize that by the time of publishing, the words on this page might very well appear outdated and irrelevant, so quickly is our world changing as we swerve from pandemic to protest and back.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.

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

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.

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Interim Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs

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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

Two 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.

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.
At Elliott, our focus is 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, in the private sector, and 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.

**A World of Possibility**

**FOR ELLIOTT GRADUATES**

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.

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

David Szakonyi, Assistant Professor, for Vice
“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.

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.

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

Susan Aaronson hosts a conversation on National Security with Senator Tammy Duckworth, MA ‘92, HON ’17.

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.
This 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.
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!
In 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 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.”
EVENTS AT ELLIOTT: A Seat At The Table

Apollo 11 50th Anniversary: One Giant Leap Conversation with Nancy Lindborg
A Conversation with John Allen Jazz with Dean B Feat. Ambassador of Israel Ron Dermer
Jazz with Dean B Feat. Krish O’Mara Vignarajah Conversation with Dr. Mohammed Naji al-Asam
We Want Freedom: An Exhibit on the Velvet Revolution of 1989 Conversation on Leadership and Ethics with Ambassador Ron Dermer
Ethics and Leadership in Post Civil War Sierra Leone Conversation on National Security
Gender Perspectives in Conflict

Elliott Experts Weigh In: The European Response to the Coronavirus
Why Has Data Become a National Security Issue?
Elliott Experts Weigh In: Markets in Crisis and Lessons from the Past
Elliott Experts Weigh In: Transatlantic Challenges and Opportunities

Events at Elliott:

Data Governance in Smart Cities
Promoting Ethics and Leadership in International Organizations
Kyrgyzstan’s Slide to Autocracy

DECEMBER 2019
The impeachment of President Donald Trump begins December 19, 2019.

What concerns me is if we cannot agree on basic standards of conduct governing the president of the United States, it is hard to see how, in the words of Ben Franklin, we can have a republic we can keep.
Dean Reuben E. Brigety, for Washington Diplomat

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson declares that the UK would leave the EU in early 2023.

The 15th Taiwanese presidential elections
The Sigr Center for Asian Studies hosts Rupert Hammond-Chambers, President of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, for a conference on the 2020 Taiwanese Elections.

It is possible that under other circumstances, the E.U. would make concessions. However, the chaos and instability of U.S. politics means that it is at best uncertain that Britain would ratify a better deal even if it got one.
Henry Farrell, Associate Professor, for The Washington Post
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.

Faculty Experts
WEIGH IN
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.

Women, War and Peace

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”

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Women and War

Visual stories

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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.

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 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/
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
Nemata Blyden, African Americans and Africa: A New History
Barry Chiswick (ed.), Jees at Work: Their Economic Progress in the American Labor Market
Alexander Dent, Digital Pirates: Policing Intellectual Property in Brazil
Mohsen Eseesey, Al-Munjiz: Advanced Business Arabic
Amirat Ettzioni, Reclaiming Patriotism
Hope M. Harrison, After the Berlin Wall: 1989 to the Present
Benjamin Hopkins, Ruling the Savage Periphery: Frontier Governance and the Making of the Modern State
Vincent Latenti, Deep Time Reckoning: How Future Thinking Can Help Earth Now
David Shambaugh, China and the World

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
Henry Hale, awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for “Rapid Funerary Practices, Pandemic Confinement, and the Implications for COVID-19 Transmission”

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 was awarded a grant from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology to fund publication of the Russian Analytical Digest

Marlene Laruelle was awarded a grant from the Open Society Foundation for a project examining Russian emigres’ contribution to the U.S.

Joseph Orttung was awarded a grant from The Fortitude Foundation of New York for their Program on “History of Fascism 2020.”

Marlene Laruelle was awarded a grant from the Department of Defense for her Minerva Research Group at New America.

Richard Grinker was awarded a grant from the Department of Defense for her Minerva Defense Education and Civilian University Research program, and another from the Alfred and Jane Ross Foundation for her project “History of Fascism 2020.”

Cynthia McClintock and Joseph Cerone (GW PhD candidate) won a grant for their research project “Ranking-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 World Scientific Institute of Technology to fund publication of the Russian Analytical Digest and energy research in Eurasia. Robert Orttung was awarded a grant from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology to fund publication of the Russian Analytical Digest

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Other U.S. States” from the Electoral Reform Research Group at New America.
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, different generations and different points of view could share wine and popovers and have (mostly civilized) conversations.

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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.
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.

Co-investigators Robert Orttung, 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.

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 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.
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.

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.
Lalitha Shanmugasundaram BA ‘24

The new normal: wearing masks.
Elliott School alumna Rose Gottemoeller, MA ’81, spoke to a mostly virtual audience about the state of the Transatlantic Alliance over Facebook Live.

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.

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

International Olympic Committee suspends the Summer Olympics until 2021.

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

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

At 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.

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 a cappella 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!
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020
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 1937 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.

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.

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.

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.

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, 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.

Sara 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)
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 Zelenksy - 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.

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, unflinching 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.
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.

Today’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.”

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**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.”

“...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

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