Year in Review
DUKE PROGRAM IN AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY
2017-2018
DUKE PROGRAM IN AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY

Celebrating 10 years
All year long we have been celebrating our 10th anniversary. As a result, I have become even more nostalgic than usual. Those of you who were tired of hearing me drone on about the “old days” would find me even more insufferable now!

Still it is worth stepping back and seeing what we all have built together. What started as an undergraduate course and a small speaker series has blossomed into a rich program of curricular, co-curricular, and research activities. Every newspaper headline confirms the importance of what we are doing. It is not hard to persuade people that America’s role in the world is important and warrants careful reflection and thoughtful debate. That is what we do every week in the AGS program, and I am proud of how we do it.

One AGS distinctive is intellectual diversity. We make a point of bringing in the people who influence how Republican AND Democratic Administrations have handled these issues in the past and in the present. This year, we were especially successful in demonstrating that breadth of reach.

We welcomed Avril Haines, Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama and former Deputy Director of the CIA; John Podesta, Director of the Center for American Progress and past Chair of Hillary for America; Reince Priebus, former White House Chief of Staff for President Trump; Ambassador Nikki Haley, current US Permanent Representative to the UN; and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice among many others.

While we were celebrating our decennial anniversary, we also managed to pay heed to a centennial: AGS challenged students to understand strategic decision making and to apply lessons learned from the past out of the classroom and on the battlefields of World War I. We mustered a group of almost 40 students, alumni and donors and trekked in very realistic (cold and wet) conditions throughout Belgium and northern France in March. One undergrad was overheard to say during a particularly drizzly march through the mud, “I knew we were going to study WWI, I did not expect to experience it.”

Assistant Professor Simon Miles hit the ground running during his first year with AGS, enlivening the curricular and co-curricular offerings in diplomatic history. Through his History and International Security” speakers’ series, Simon hosted several distinguished scholars, including Pulitzer Prize winner William Taubman. We also benefited enormously from General Martin Dempsey’s expertise as he co-taught the American Grand Strategy through Film course during his final semester at the Sanford School.

While I am waxing nostalgic, I must give a nod to an outstanding group of AGS seniors, who find their next steps in Paris, Beijing, Silicon Valley, D.C. and everywhere in between. This is the first crop of alums who experienced a well-funded, full-service AGS program every single year at Duke and they embody what such an investment can yield. They have set the tone for an eager cadre of returning undergrads and grads who are brimming with great ideas and energy to implement them.

As we look forward to the next decade of AGS, we strive to not only sustain our strong curricular and co-curricular portfolio, but to expand programming where we see current opportunity. Filling an existing gap, AGS will begin its sponsorship of a Duke student-led cyber initiative. With the guidance of a former NSA executive, our students will be “briefed” by experts in the field, host speakers, run simulations and participate in conferences and competitions. We will heed the call of students to expand the diversity of the programming and to build an undergraduate research publication. We fully expect that the entering 1st years will have more than a couple good ideas of things we could do, as well.

Running a program of this size is easily beyond the capacity of a single individual – at least of this individual. I am grateful for the help of my faculty colleagues, who are getting more and more involved. I am grateful for the help of graduate students, who bridge the gap between faculty and undergrads. I am grateful for the help of alums, who remember what it was like and give back to Duke by assisting the next generation of Duke alums. And I am especially grateful for the help of Melanie Benson and Sarah Adams. Melanie and Sarah joined AGS this year and quickly cracked the code. They really run things, and they let me pretend otherwise. Neither was a Dukie before, but you will not find more loyal or more committed supporters of the AGS program than my staff.

I hope you get as excited about the coming years as I did when I reviewed what we did this past year. Perhaps it will even inspire you to get more involved. There is plenty of room for more of you.

PETER D. FEAVER
AGS DIRECTOR
2017-2018 AT A GLANCE

47 Events

- 2 Ambassador Dave and Kay Phillips Family International Lectures
- 33 Distinguished speakers
- 12 Co-sponsored programs and conferences

New this year!

- Stratagem Undergrad Journal
- History & International Security Speaker Series
- Cyber Team

3 Active learning opportunities

- 2 Staff rides to Gettysburg and Belgium/France
- 1 Field trip to Little Creek Navy SEAL base in VA

People attending AGS events

- 5,098 in 2017-18, 110% increase!
- 6k, 5k, 4k, 2k

Increased Alumni Engagement

- 5 alumni receptions in NYC, Washington, DC, and Durham.
- 2 new alumni coordinators in NYC and Washington, DC
AGS PROGRAMMING FALL 2017

The mission of AGS is to prepare the next generation of strategists by studying past generations and interacting with current strategists. We are building a research community of scholars and alumni committed to deepening their understanding of America’s global role – past, present and future.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>AGS 10th Anniversary Celebration in DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>“Is America Leading, Retreating or Getting out of the Way?” Jim Carafano, VP Heritage Foundation</td>
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<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>“Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’ Trap?” Graham Allison, Harvard University</td>
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<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>“Counter-terrorism in the Age of Trump” Lisa Monaco, former Chief Counter-terrorism and Homeland Security Adviser to President Obama</td>
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<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Alumni Homecoming Happy Hour</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>“US Leadership in a Changing World” Avril Haines, former National Security Adviser to President Obama</td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>“Politics, the Media and the Current State of Affairs” Megan McArdle, Bloomberg</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>“The Reformation at 500: The Forgotten Key to America’s Freedom” Os Guinness, author and social critic</td>
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<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>“Partisan Politics or Reaching Across Party Lines: The Balancing Act for Trump’s Legislative Priorities” Paul Teller, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs</td>
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<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>AGS Alumni in New York Dinner</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>“Challenges to our National Security and Democracy” Adam Schiff, US Representative, D-CA 28th District</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>“Intersections of Business and International Politics: Current Dynamics of the Energy Market” Amjad Bseisu, EnQuest CEO</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>History and International Security Series with Jeff Engel</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>AGS Alumni in DC Quarterly Get Together</td>
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<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>“One Year Later: America’s Role One Year after the Election that Shook the World” John Podesta, Founder of the Center for American Progress, Chair of Hillary for America</td>
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<td>Nov. 30 - Dec. 1</td>
<td>AGS Active Learning: Visit to the Navy SEAL base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>“One Year Later: America’s Role One Year after the Election that Shook the World” Reince Priebus, former Chief of Staff to President Trump</td>
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<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>“Powerplay: The Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia” Victor Cha, former NSC Director for Asian Affairs</td>
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Jan. 7-9
Winter Forum – Crisis at Fiery Cross Reef: China, the United States, and the South China Sea

Jan. 16
“The Need for a Strong Transatlantic Partnership in a Globalized World” | Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the US

Jan. 22
AGS Interest Meeting with Marc Sageman, former CIA Officer

Jan. 24
Cyber Dinner with General Dempsey, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Jan. 30
“Insights into Extremism: Experiences from a former Guantanamo Interrogator and a Convicted Jihadist” | Jennifer Bryson & Ismail Royer

Feb. 7
“An Argument for America’s Support of Democracy & Human Rights in the Middle East” | Elliott Abrams, former Deputy Assistant to President Bush

Feb. 12
“Wearing Two Hats: Managing Threats and Relationships across Two Commands” | Gen. Lori Robinson, USNORTHCOM & NORAD

Feb. 15
“President Trump’s Foreign Policy Vision and the Role of Diplomacy in Fulfilling It” | Brian Hook, Senior Policy Adviser to the Secretary of State

Feb. 16

Feb. 22
“Quantitative Analytics in Defense” | Dominick Wright, Deputy Director of Analysis at the Pentagon

Feb. 28
AGS Alumni in DC Quarterly Get Together

Feb. 28
“Redefining US Strategic Interests in Africa” | Jendayi Frazer, former Assistant Sec. of State for African Affairs

March 11 - 19
AGS Active Learning: International Staff Ride – World War I Endgame

March 15 - 17
The Atlantic Council 9/12 Cyber Competition

March 22
History and International Security Series with William Taubman

March 28
AGS Alumni Career Panel

April 5
“Confronting Today’s Global Governance Challenges” | Nikki Haley, US Ambassador to the UN

April 7 - 8
AGS Active Learning: Gettysburg Staff Ride

April 12
“Revisiting Hiroshima in Iran,” Scott Sagan, Stanford University

April 13
“Public Policy and Life in DC,” Happy hour with Kelly Magsamen

April 19
History and International Security Series with William Hitchcock

May 3
“Political Risk: How Businesses and Organizations Can Anticipate Global Insecurity.” Condoleezza Rice, 66th Secretary of State & Amy Zegart, Senior Fellow at FSI

June 22
DC Alumni Garden Party, hosted by the Honorable Dr. John Hillen
SAYING HELLO

THIS YEAR, WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO WELCOME COLD WAR HISTORIAN SIMON MILES TO THE AGS TEAM.

It’s been a great first year as part of the ACS team. In the fall, I co-taught the American Grand Strategy capstone course with Bruce Jentleson. With a great group of students, including two of Sanford’s military fellows, we covered the evolution of ideas behind US foreign policy from the founding to the future. The students’ final papers covered everything from energy supply in the Balkans to foreign aid and climate change. In the spring, I taught an advanced seminar on the Global Cold War, a chance to get students from public policy, history, and political science working directly with documents produced by policy-makers whose shoes they are hoping to fill.

In addition to teaching, I have been working on completing my book manuscript on the beginning of the end of the Cold War – covering US-Soviet relations during the first term of the Reagan administration and the transformation of the superpower conflict during that period, based on international archival research from both sides of the Iron Curtain. A real highlight of my year has been organizing the new History and International Security (HIS) speaker series at Duke, supported by ACS. The series brings prominent diplomatic and military historians to Duke for public events and small-group meetings with students. This past year, we hosted Jeffrey Engel, William Taubman and William Hitchcock.

- SIMON MILES, PHD
SAYING FAREWELL

RUBENSTEIN FELLOW GEN. MARTIN DEMPSEY SPENT HIS FINAL YEAR AT SANFORD CO-TEACHING THE AGS THROUGH FILM CLASS WITH PROFESSOR PETER FEAVER.

"I am coming out of the class with a thorough cultural understanding of the history of American Grand Strategy, and getting to dive into these topics with experts like Prof. Feaver and Gen. Dempsey was an absolute honor."

- Riyanka Ganguly '18

"They fostered a class environment that allowed Duke students to feel comfortable debating a 4-star general on everything from nuclear Armageddon in the film Dr. Strangelove to the global war on terror as experienced though The Hurt Locker."

- Alex Moore '19

"It was a great moment for AGS when at this year's Political Science Commencement, Amy Gravitt, Executive Vice President of HBO Programming, gave our film class' final project recognition in her remarks."

- Professor Peter Feaver
LEARNING FROM LEADERS

This year, we hosted 33 of the most prominent voices in the American foreign policy arena. In addition to public speaking events, guests also engaged students during small group meetings and private dinners.

First-year AGS Council Member Miranda Wolford shared her experience at dinner with Hungarian Ambassador Szabó:

“For nearly two hours, I was able to ask all of the burning questions I had about the Hungarian political scene and his career path. ... Never in a million years did I envision having the chance to develop personal rapport with someone so high in my intended industry — let alone this early in my Duke career. Thank you for everything, AGS! Cheers to three more years at Duke, and a lifetime of connections made through this program.”

FEATURED LECTURESHIPS

We were privileged to host two Ambassador Dave and Kay Phillips Family International Lectures, featuring John Podesta and Reince Priebus on the topic, “One Year Later: America’s Role One Year After the Election that Shook the World.”
WWI ENDCOM NO STAFF RIDE

IN MARCH, NEARLY 40 AGS STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ALUMNI TREDKED ACROSS BELGIUM AND FRANCE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WWI.

"On staff rides, students role play military and war-period characters alongside faculty and military experts to learn the stakes of war. Led by Professor Peter Feaver, students debated strategy from the perspective of embroiled contemporaries of WWI to learn the true costs and sacrifices of leadership."

"The experience combined the best aspects of a battlefield tour, crisis simulation and seminar discussion. It took students directly to sites of historical significance, allowing them to witness the intersection of terrain and weather — and even how fatigue shaped the events that unfolded."

"Staff rides are invaluable because they help the participants understand not just who fought there and when, but what was planned, what ended up occurring, why it happened, and how these events fit into the broader political or geopolitical context."

- Adam Lemon, AGS Alumnus '17

AGS'ers huddle in the rain for a battle-side presentation in Ypres, Belgium.
"In April, 18 AGS’ers braved the cold and windy weather for an unforgettable staff ride to Gettysburg, PA. Taking on the roles of men who fought there, our team learned first-hand the difficulty involved with decision-making, the importance of clear communication, and the value of strong relationships between leaders and subordinates. Most importantly, we developed a sense of empathy for the decision-makers at Gettysburg, which we can apply when evaluating the choices of today’s grand strategists.

As I spoke to students on the bus ride back to Duke, I was glad to see that I wasn’t the only one who’d had such a positive experience. One question kept coming up: When’s the next staff ride, and how do I sign up?"

BO CARLSON ’20
GETTYSBURG STUDENT LEADER
VISITING SEAL TEAM 10

“Visiting the Navy SEAL base in Little Creek, VA was a once in a lifetime experience I will never forget. Hearing directly from SEALs about their experiences was incredible, and it gave me a new perspective on the importance of their work. I learned about their greatest sacrifices first-hand and even had the amazing opportunity to participate in SEAL-like training exercises. This trip sparked my interest in national security, giving me a better understanding of the threats to our nation and the role of SEALs in combating them.”

- Victoria Sorhegui, 2021

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

ACS funds student research and internships opportunities relevant to American grand strategy through the prestigious AGS Summer Fellowship. This summer, we have seven fellows completing research and interning across the nation and around the world, involved in everything from diplomacy in Eastern Europe to cyber security in DC. Follow their adventures through the AGS Fellows' Blog.

Click here to visit the AGS Fellows' Blog!
ACTIVE LEARNING

CYBER TEAM

In response to growing student demand, AGS’ers Justin Sherman ’20 and Becca DiLuzio ’20 created the Duke Cyber Team. Sponsored by ACS and coached by an executive from the NSA, the Cyber Team intends to educate members and the Duke community at large on cutting-edge cyber issues: the former through private, weekly “briefings” from experts in industry, intelligence, and academia; and the latter through public, bimonthly events open to the Duke community. Through the AGS program, the Cyber Team will also bring one high-profile cyber speaker to Duke each semester, in addition to attending conferences and competitions (e.g., the Atlantic Council’s Cyber 9/12).

AGS COUNCIL

This year, the AGS Council welcomed 18 new members with diverse and unique academic backgrounds, but who all share an interest in American grand strategy.
April may be the cruelest month, but May is a close second. This May, at Commencement, I said goodbye to my undergraduate years at Duke. Life transitions like graduation involve a species of mourning. I mourn for close friendships that grow more distant; friends who once lived across the quad will now live in San Francisco, Beijing, or Dublin. I mourn for free talks and concerts, for the FLUNCH program, for all the cushy trappings of university life. Yes, I even mourn for lectures and discussion.

But now, as I begin my post-graduate journey on the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage through northern Spain, my thoughts turn from mourning to gratitude. And no element of my life at Duke inspires more gratitude than the American Grand Strategy program.

I’m grateful for the intellectual benefits that ACS has provided. My research skills are sharper, my thinking clearer, my writing more concise than they were before ACS. Staff rides and class presentations have forced me to hone my public speaking skills. I’ve gained valuable mentors in Peter Feaver, Kyle Beardsley, Walter Russell Mead, and Donald Horowitz — all of whom I met in one way or another through the ACS program. Learning grand strategy at the undergraduate level also encouraged me to pursue graduate studies in the field. This September, I will begin my Masters in International Security at Sciences Po in Paris as an Emile-Boutmy Scholar.

The subtlest intellectual benefit I’ve gained is what Dr. Feaver calls “empathy,” close in meaning to what was once called the virtue of “Christian charity.” In our polarized political environment, it is all too easy to assume that those who disagree with us are stupid, or evil, or both. But Feaverian empathy suggests that this is lazy thinking. Dr. Feaver challenged us on every staff ride and in every class discussion to assume that decision makers far removed from us in historical time or ideology were smart, conscientious people who acted with the very best of intentions. Thinking charitably, even if you continue to disagree with their choices, does your assessment of them begin to look any different? Do you begin to see
tragedy, or irony, where you once saw only farce? I do.

I’m also grateful for the confidence I gained through ACS. Small group sessions with guests like UN Ambassador Nikki Haley and former National Security Advisor Tom Donilon helped to make me more comfortable asking tough questions. By my senior year, I had the confidence to pitch an event — a discussion on Islam and religious freedom with Ismail Royer and Jennifer Bryson — to ACS leadership, who helped me to plan and moderate it.

You may not have noticed, but Dr. Feaver also has a way of dispatching his young lieutenants to make conversation with the program’s donors at receptions and dinners. Donors get to hear about how the program influences students, and students learn the “soft skill” of maintaining conversation over cocktails and canapés. ACS also provided summer funding for me and pointed the way for summer opportunities with the Hertog Foundation and the Alexander Hamilton Society. All of these experiences make me more confident that I will be able to navigate Washington one day soon.

I would be remiss if I left out one more benefit of the ACS program: belonging. Aron and I are very proud to report that under our leadership these past three years, the ACS Council has become a tight-knit social and intellectual community. (I can neither confirm nor deny that ACS “took Shooters” this spring to support Amy Kramer’s Young Trustee campaign.) Friendships forged in ACS are also beginning to inspire larger changes on campus. For example, ACS Co-Chair Sabriyya Pate (T’19), along with ACS Council Members Spencer Kaplan (T’21) and Eren Bagis (T’21), are at the forefront of efforts to overhaul Duke’s housing model. If in ten years Duke’s residential system is fostering stronger, more inclusive communities than it is today, it will be in no small part thanks to leaders brought together in ACS Council.

Archimedes once said, “Give me a lever long enough, and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world.” ACS provided the lever, and I’m still searching for the fulcrum, but I’m more determined than ever to move the world.

Sincerely yours,

MATTHEW KING ’18
2016-2018 AGS COUNCIL CO-CHAIR
ARON RIMANYI

For many of us 4th year students, graduation seems like the end of a journey – to be celebrated and commemorated. But in reality, when we climb those steps to receive our diplomas, we find ourselves at the very height of our challenges. We face a world of uncertainty, both for ourselves and for the communities we hold dear. Hope can turn to worry, pride to doubt. Even on such a joyous occasion, it is easy to feel lost.

Students of ACS are acutely aware of these uncertainties even on a broader scale. Our four years spanned a time of great political change, as troubles arose at home and abroad. Many of us faced divisions within families and communities, and our arguments over dinner tables seemed to foreshadow greater conflicts to come. In a world of such challenge and complexity, it was easy to question how much of a difference we can make.

These are questions that will continue to surround us, even after the fanfare of graduation. Yet of all our experiences at Duke, the ACS program affords the closest approximation of an answer. Under the guidance of our mentors and peers, we learned that no problem is too monolithic. Global issues can be broken down and understood. Foreign policy projects can be initiated and brought to fruition, one step at a time. By applying strategic thinking, even the most daunting problems can be solved. Through ACS, we have demonstrated this firsthand – from the trenches of Flanders to the shores of Grenada.

I have taken heart in the lessons thus learned and would encourage my peers to do so as well. The idea of strategy is ultimately one of optimism – that thorough analysis and thoughtful action can achieve results. This is true not just on the beaches of Normandy, but in our everyday lives as well. Yes, graduating students like me can easily feel daunted by the future. But we should never lose sight of our goals, along with the skills and wisdom we have been granted to achieve them.

We at ACS are thus prepared to face the world and shape our role within it. Thankful for the guidance of our teachers, humble in our understanding, trusting in ourselves and our
peers – we are ready for the next steps. Thank you for your help in bringing us thus far and keep an eye out for what we will achieve.

Sincerely yours,

ARON RIMANYI ’18
2016-2018 AGS COUNCIL CO-CHAIR

Our names are Sabriyya Pate ’19 and Max Labaton ’20, and we have the privilege of serving as co-chairs of the AGS Student Council. In this capacity, we help facilitate a close-knit community of aspiring grand strategists by organizing mentoring opportunities, assisting in event coordination, and advising on programming and curriculum.

We have taken several AGS courses, including the American Grand Strategy capstone, the Global Cold War seminar, and the American Grand Strategy Through Film class co-taught by Professor Feaver and General Martin Dempsey. In 2017, we both participated in the Tet Offensive Staff Ride to Vietnam, where we each played roles of influential South Vietnamese leaders. More recently, we strengthened our understanding of military history and the importance of comprehensive learning as part of the World War I End Game staff ride in Belgium and France. For us, AGS has meant the opportunity to learn actively and experientially, often outside the
classroom where the applications of our knowledge are most visible. This is further reflected by the consistent programming that has brought leading policymakers and scholars to meet with Duke students and discuss the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The AGS Program has opened remarkable doors to students. Our relationships with peers in this community have facilitated forums for rich and illuminating conversations, and have connected students to internships, fellowships, and research opportunities.

As Council chairs, our focus for the future aims to build a stronger AGS community by reaching diverse segments of the Duke community and hosting speakers with a full-range of perspectives and areas of expertise. Only by bringing individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives together can students involved with AGS gain the most from the program.

Hosting experts with an international perspective will continue to be important in an increasingly globalized world. Inviting more guests who specialize in niche areas, like climate and cybersecurity, could also help us better understand emerging strategic threats. By bringing in speakers such as Jigsaw CEO Jared Cohen, sending AGS delegations to cybersecurity conferences, and planning innovative new courses for the upcoming semesters, we are confident AGS is on the right track.

We were thrilled with the programming and curricular opportunities this year, and are constantly impressed with the thoughtfulness and dedication of AGS community members. We look forward to another excellent year of speakers, staff rides, and courses.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Best regards,

SABRIYYA PATE ’19
MAX LABATON ’20
2017-2019 AGS COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS
"Stratagem is Duke’s newly founded undergraduate journal of grand strategy, a publication designed to be a testament to the academic diversity of the field. The journal was spearheaded this year by AGS Council members with the mission of showcasing the work of undergraduates in grand strategy. That purpose lends to the broader goal of drawing students from across the academy into the fold of grand strategy by showing them how their research might well tie into the American national interest."

CTPP FELLOWS

AGS PARTNERS WITH THE COUNTERTERRORISM AND PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, PROVIDING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM WITH EXPERIENCED MILITARY PROFESSIONALS.

“The Counterterrorism and Public Policy (CTPP) War College Fellows provided guidance and mentorship to junior officers at Duke. Being in a civilian educational environment with senior field grade officers was the best of both worlds. Their deployment experiences greatly contributed to discussions. The Fellows’ presentations were excellent and an impressive reflection on the US Military."

MARINE OFFICER SPENCER SCHAFFER
AGS MPP Student
AGS ACCOLADES

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Three AGS students named Schwarzman Scholars

Aron Rimanyi, Amy Kramer and Riyanka Ganguly received the Schwarzman Scholarship, a "highly selective, one-year master’s program at Tsinghua University in Beijing that is designed to prepare the next generation of global leaders for the challenges of the future."

AGS seniors receiving political science awards

- Matthew King – Alona E. Evans Prize in International Law
- Aron Rimanyi, Riyanka Ganguly – Robert S. Rankin American Government Award for Leadership & Academic Achievement
- Sanjeev Dasgupta - The Jerry B. and Callie Irene Stone Award
- Amy Kramer - Ole R. Holsti Award in American Foreign Policy and International Relations

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- AGS'er Patrick Howell successfully defended his dissertation "Will the CORDS SNAP?"
- AGS alumna Kat Alexander defended her dissertation, "Fully Committed? Religiously Committed State Populations and International Conflict," and was awarded Best Dissertation this year by the Department of Political Science.

FACULTY

Bruce Jentleson published "The Peacemakers," and received the Joseph J. Kruzel Memorial Award for Distinguished Public Service.

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GRAND STRATEGISTS
THANK YOU TO AGS DONORS

Time and time again we have heard even our most distinguished visitors offer a variation on the following comment: “Wow, your AGS’ers really have an interesting set of opportunities to choose from. ... I wish I were back in school again so I could take advantage of the program.” It is something like a virtuous circle of mutual envy: the current AGS’ers and recent alums envy the career success of our VIP visitors, and the visitors envy the learning opportunities we make available.

This is only possible because we have something else that is also enviable: loyal and generous supporters. We have enjoyed building this program over the years with the Merlone family. This year we had the extra joy of having Kristen Merlone (T’10) join us on the international staff ride where she played Major General John A. Lejeune, the Marine maker of the myth of Belleau Wood.

Kristen has a few more staff ride roles to fill before she catches up with John Hillen. The Honorable Dr. John Hillen (T’88), a leading expert in strategy and political-military affairs and a decades-long friend and counselor to Peter, embodies this enthusiastic support of the AGS program. John has joined three international staff rides, D-Day, Grenada, and the World War I endgame. By common consent, he has performed the meatiest roles and sets the bar for the rest of us. He has given countless thoughtful responses to variants of the same question – “how can I have your career” – asked by AGS’ers over the years. Dr. Hillen continues to encourage the AGS alumni network to thrive by hosting events for a DC-based contingent and making himself available to alumni seeking counsel on the “next step.”

We also remain indebted to Ambassador Dave and Kay Phillips whose Ambassador Dave and Kay Phillips Family International Lectureship endowment continues to fund our most prominent visiting speakers and some other high-impact activities. Administering the Phillips Family International Lectureship helped put AGS on the Duke map and it still provides some of the major highlights of the year for our students.

We love when our supporters can come and experience the fruits of their investment first hand. We enjoy seeing Louis Dejoy and Aldona Wos at many of our events, and are pleased we lured back Scott and Mary Ellen Barton for several events even though Hannah has graduated. Each time we send out a notice of an event, Margaret Nordlinger and John Tolsma toy with the idea of joining us; we hope we can entice these major supporters back next year.

This year, we identify for special mention a new friend who has become one of our most enthusiastic supporters: Ambassador Gordon Sondland. Gordon’s investment has helped us turn some of our most popular program items into repeat events students can hope to see multiple times in their undergraduate careers. We also celebrate with Gordon his confirmation as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union. We look forward to seeing him serve the country in this new assignment.

We are especially excited when we draw in “seasoned” alums who have been grandfathered into the AGS program. We loved that alumna Nicole Czakon (’04) joined us on the World War I staff ride and became a supporter. Holding a Ph.D. in Astrophysics, she provided a new perspective on potential paths for AGS’ers.

Thank you to all of you who have invested in the program with your time and financial resources over the past decade. We hope you stay with us for the decades to come.

THE AGS TEAM
DUKE PROGRAM IN AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY

Preparing the next generation of grand strategists.

@Duke_AGS
@Duke_AGS
American Grand Strategy Alumni Group

alumni.duke.edu > School Groups
ags.duke.edu (Coming soon! 7/25/18)
melanie.benson@duke.edu