



Alumni Council of the International Security M.A. Program

November 2025

The Schar School's Master's in International Security is now ten years old. To commemorate this milestone, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Alumni Council, featuring distinguished graduates from 2017 to 2025. Here are our inaugural members of the Alumni Council:

Rebecca Ames (2019) Rebecca is a national security and policy professional with more than 15 years of experience advising the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and other federal partners. With her appointment to the Foreign Service pending, Rebecca brings diplomatic insight, seasoned leadership, and a systems-level perspective to interagency policy and operational decision-making. She currently advises the Department of State's Office of Diplomatic Technology on cybersecurity governance and IT portfolio management. Rebecca graduated with her M.A. in International Security from the Schar School in 2019. She received her B.A. in American Public Policy and Foreign Affairs from Boise State University.

Abigail Bell (2025) Abby is pursuing a career in federal public service and most recently has interned at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. She previously contracted at the Department of State, where she supported international development programs focused on strengthening democracy and human rights in South and Central America. Abby also offers experience in the non-profit sector and has worked internationally in Ecuador and Spain. She received her M.A. in International Security from the Schar School at George Mason University in 2025, and she earned her B.A. in Global Studies with minors in Spanish and Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Carlton Haelig (2017) Carlton is a Fellow with the Defense Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). His research at CNAS focuses on future force planning, defense strategy, and military innovation, particularly how the U.S. and its allies manage strategic competition and develop future operating concepts for competition and warfighting. His book project, "The Doctrine Gap," examines the balance between national security commitments and military capabilities. Carlton graduated with his M.A. in International Security in 2017. He also holds a dual B.A. in Political Science and History from Rutgers University and an M.A. in Public Affairs and PhD in Security Studies from Princeton University.

William Krueger (2025) Will works as a consultant with LMI, supporting mission enablement in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. He previously worked in the Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and is a U.S. Army veteran. Will earned his M.A. in International Security from George Mason in 2025 and holds a B.A. in History from the University of Denver.

Marisol Maddox (2021) Marisol is a Senior Arctic Fellow at the Institute of Arctic Studies in the Dickey Center at Dartmouth. She serves as a Senior Associate (non-resident) in the Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Her transdisciplinary research considers the Arctic nexus of security, geopolitics, and environmental change. Marisol earned her M.A. in International Security with a concentration in Transnational Challenges from the Schar School in 2021. She received her B.A. in Environmental Studies with a concentration in ecosystems from SUNY Binghamton.

Jennifer Swint (2022) Jennifer Swint is currently a US Civilian Observer within the Multinational Force and Observers; an international peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Jennifer previously worked as an Intelligence Operations Specialist & Intelligence Analyst within the US Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. She's currently living in Sinai, Egypt, where she spends her free time marathon training and studying for the LSAT. Jennifer graduated with her M.A. in International Security from the Schar School in 2022, and she holds a B.A. in Government and International Politics also from the Schar School.

Jonathan Walberg (2024) Jonathan is a Political Science PhD student at the University of Virginia, where he studies the roles that deception and disinformation play in conflict and statepower. He is the Associate Director at Taiwan Security Monitor, where he works on issues of cross-Strait security and uses geospatial research along with quantitative methods to answer questions about strategy. Johnathan graduated from the ISEC program at the Schar School in 2024, and he earned his B.A. in International Relations also from George Mason University.

Sam West (2017) Sam West graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in Military History in 2015, and from George Mason University's International Security M.A. program in 2017. While studying at GMU, he served as Dr. Audrey Cronin's Research Assistant, and led the annual staff ride to Gettysburg as a member of the Center for Security Policy Studies. Since graduation, he has worked on several contracts for the US Navy, and is currently on a contract supporting PEO Undersea Warfare Systems (UWS) as the Deputy Program Office Lead for PMS 401 - Submarine Acoustic Systems.