

**LIBERTY**  
UNIVERSITY

HELMS SCHOOL  
*of* GOVERNMENT



# Helms School of Government Newsletter

## Spring 2021

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## Welcome from the Deans



Greetings from the Helms School of Government!

Now that the semester has drawn to a close, we are pleased to share with you the newest Helms School newsletter – for Spring 2021.

First, we hope that you will join us in congratulating Liberty University's Class of 2021! Our Helms graduates have worked hard under trying conditions to earn their degrees and we are proud of them. We are expecting great things from them. And we hope that each of you will join us at Williams Stadium on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:00 pm as we present special awards and confer degrees to our Helms School of Government graduates of the Class of 2021. And then be sure to tune in to Liberty University's Virtual Commencement Ceremony featuring professional athlete, author, and philanthropist Tim Tebow on Saturday, May 15 at 7:00 pm at: <https://www.liberty.edu/commencement/>.

Once again, we would like to take the opportunity to say what a blessing it has been to have all of our students back on campus in-person for both the fall and spring semesters and to reiterate our gratitude to all of those from Dr. Keith Anderson and his Health & Wellness Team to our faculty and staff to the Liberty cleaning crews who have all worked so hard to keep our students and our classrooms safe for in-person learning. We believe that our Liberty students have received the best educational value from their time here under the most difficult circumstances. We also welcomed a record number of online students to the Helms School of Government as the pandemic spurred greater demand for online higher education.

We hope that you will enjoy reading in this newsletter about some of the programs that we hosted during the semester – including visits from former CIA operative Martha Peterson, former Counselor to Attorney General Bill Barr and Liberty Law alum Kerri Kupec, former Virginia Governors George Allen and Bob McDonnell, former White House advisor Tim Goeglein, and former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence, Marc Short.

We hope that you will also enjoy reading about our Helms School Moot Court team's winning the 2021 American Moot Court Association National Tournament for the first time in program history. In addition we were proud to host our first ever [Public Policy Conference](#) entitled Culture & Crisis which was headlined by former Governor McDonnell and featured more than 70 presenters and was attended by more than 400 participants. And finally, this semester, we were pleased to publish the second volume of our [Journal of Statesmanship and Public Policy](#).

As we seek to better engage with our entire Helms family, we hope that you will enjoy this newsletter. And we ask that you help us in making connections by joining the conversation on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages!

We hope that you have an excellent and safe summer, and we look forward to seeing you back here at Liberty in August.

## Congratulations Class of 2021!



Congratulations to the outstanding Class of 2021! We are overjoyed to be able to celebrate our students' success in person this year. Each one of the awards not only reflects the hard work and dedication displayed by the award recipient but also reflects the unanimous appreciation of the students' work by our Helms faculty. We believe that these award recipients embody the highest ideals of our work at Liberty University and the Helms School of Government in preparing our graduates to go forth into the world and be Champions for Christ.

READ MORE on our [website](#).



# Healthy Success in the Classroom



Professor Robert Cooper at the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester

It has been an incredible academic year considering the challenges COVID-19 has brought. Nonetheless, we are elated to have had the privilege to maintain in person class year-round! We want to thank our students for diligently adhering to campus rules and precautions these last two semesters which has resulted in a healthy and successful academic year!

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

## Associate Dean Stephen Parke Retirement



Associate Dean Stephen Parke

We are so sad to have to bid farewell to our friend Dr. Stephen Parke, who has served the Helms School of Government for almost 15 years as he goes into retirement from his position as Associate Dean of Residential Programs. Dr. Parke has taught courses Constitutional Government and Free Enterprise, Judicial Process, Corrections, Criminal Justice Ethics, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Terrorism, and Counter-Terrorism. Before coming to Liberty, he served in the U.S. Army for 21 years as an attorney where he travelled across the globe for the Department of Defense, as well as serving as the Staff Judge Advocate at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In his newly found free time, he plans to spend more time with his wife Helen and grandchildren in the Lynchburg area! Thank you Dr. Parke!

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

## Former Governors Bob McDonnell and George Allen and Mr. Tim Goeglein Visit Helms Students



Former Governor McDonnell & Governor George Allen

We were delighted to welcome to the Helms School former Virginia Governor George Allen and former Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell! The former governors spoke to government students in our Constitutional Government and American Constitutional Law courses. They also were hosted by the School of Law as a part of its Professionalism Lecture Series.

The Helms School was honored to host Mr. Tim Goeglein, former White House Advisor to the Bush Administration! During his two-day visit, Mr. Goeglein spoke to students in Constitutional Government & Free Enterprise, American Government, American Legislative System, and to our Special Topics: Think Tank graduate course. We hope that students enjoyed his visit as much as we did!



Mr. Tim Goeglein

Read more on [Former Governors Bob McDonnell and George Allen](#) and [Mr. Tim Goeglein](#).

## Kerri Kupec & Marc Short Visit Helms Students



Kerri Kupec speaking to Law Students



Former Chief of Staff Marc Short

We were so honored to have been a part of Kerri Kupec's visit in March as she met with our undergraduate classes and with Liberty Law students. She returned to campus to spend time with Liberty Law and Helms School of Government students and share about her journey, which has included serving as the Director of Public Affairs and Counselor to Attorney General William P. Barr for the Department of Justice under President Donald J. Trump and as the White House spokesperson for the U.S. Supreme Court Brett Kavanaugh confirmation team.

Further, the Helms School of Government and the School of Law hosted Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence and White House Director of Legislative Affairs under President Trump. He spoke at the Liberty University School of Law's final Professionalism Event of the semester, imploring Liberty Law and government students to model humility and servant leadership in their daily lives and future careers. We are so thankful our students had this opportunity!

READ MORE on [Kerri Kupec's](#) and [Marc Short's](#) visit our Facebook page.



# Moot Court



We could not be prouder of our students on the Moot Court team who won first place at the 2021 American Moot Court Association National Tournament. Nationwide, 500 teams competed in regional tournaments in the fall, with the top 100 securing spots in the national tournament. Dr. Ben Rathsam said this season's success was a team effort across the board. Congratulations to all of our students who competed, and namely seniors David Korn and Randall Shirey who were awarded first place! Congratulations to Dr. Rathsam, Dean Robertson, and the entire Moot Court team for a great year.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).



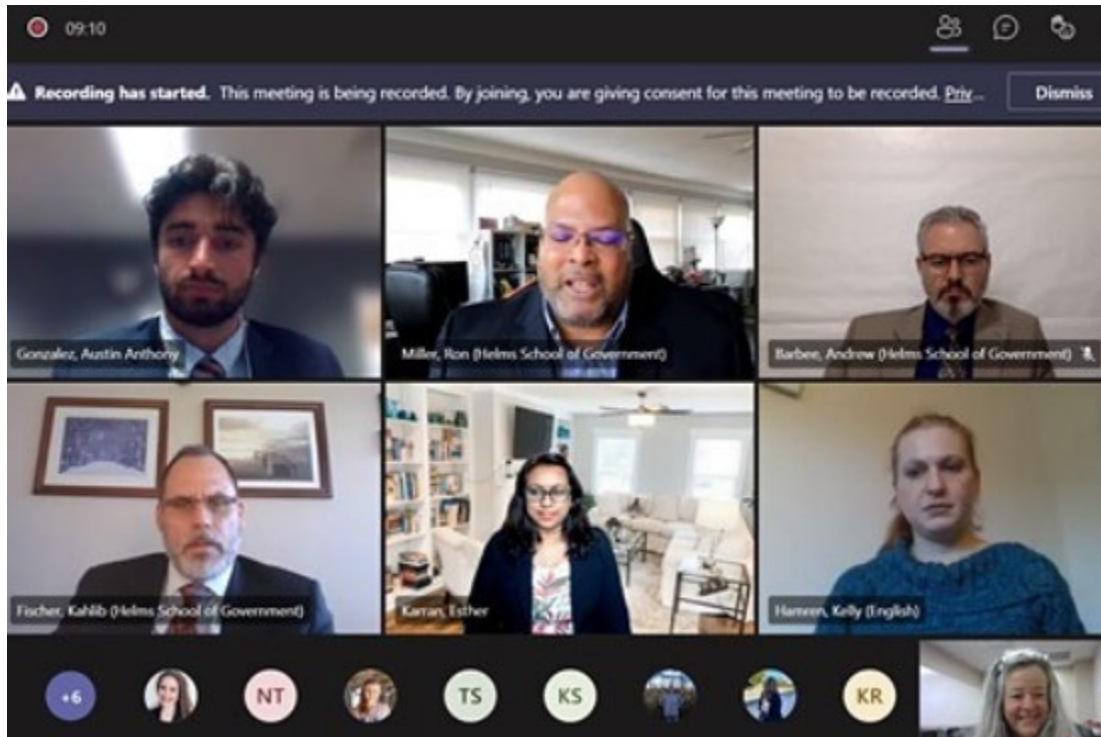
# Mock Trial



The Liberty University Mock Trial Teams recently wrapped up a successful competition season. Liberty sent three teams to Regional Competitions in February. The competitions were held over zoom, which allowed the Teams to compete against Colleges from across the Country. Liberty finished the Regional Competitions with two teams placing as Regional Champions, which earned them a spot in the Open Round Championship Series Tournament! Only 192 of over 600 nationwide teams qualify out of Regionals for the Open Round Championship Series Tournament.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

## Public Policy Conference: Culture and Crisis



The Helms School could not have been more pleased with the success of our first-ever public policy conference. We had over 400 registered participants who were able to hear from over 70 presenters during the two-day conference that featured 4 Plenary Sessions and 20 Breakout Sessions. In addition to our excellent presenters, moderators, and assistant moderators, we are grateful to Governor Bob McDonnell, the Heritage Foundation, and the Virginia Family Foundation for the huge role they played in supporting the conference. We are already in the process of planning the next conference in 2022. Thank you Dr. Kahlil Fischer and Dr. Mary Prentice for your leadership!

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

# Journal of Statesmanship and Public Policy



We are thrilled to have advanced the Liberty University [Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy](#) to a third volume! The Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy is Helms's scholarly journal that publishes research articles, book reviews, and national security analysis articles on topics dealing with international relations, domestic policy, national security, and political philosophy. To date, the journal has had over 4,000 downloads spanning in every habitable continent. Thanks to editors, Dr. Kahlib Fischer, and Dr. Mary Prentice for leading this effort.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).



## Our Clubs



Once again, our clubs were very active this semester in planning programs and trips for students. In April, the Pre-Law Society traveled to President George Washington's home, Mount Vernon where they were able to visit and tour the grounds!

This semester, the Alexander Hamilton Society hosted a discussion panel on US-China military and Security Relations with Defense Director of the Center for a New American Security, Elbridge Colby.

Earlier in the semester, the Strategic Intelligence hosted Martha Peterson- former CIA Officer and one of the first female CIA operatives. Additionally, Dr. Joel Cox's SIS students presented a briefing to a team from the Virginia State Police Fusion Center.

READ MORE on the [Pre-Law Society Trip](#) and [The Strategic Intelligence Society Briefing](#).

## Our Faculty



Once again, we are proud Professor Fred Newell serves as the Department Chair of Graduate and Doctoral Programs for the Helms School online! He is an adjunct instructor with the Helms School of Government since 2015 and his teachings generally focus in the areas of Criminal Justice and Public Administration. Professor Newell teaches Advanced Topics in Terrorism, Theories of Crime, Behavioral Dimensions of Disasters, Judicial Process, and Constitutional Criminal Procedure. His passion lies in teaching in courses that are related to Homeland Security and Terrorism with a specific focus upon the Constitution and Civil Liberties and the nexus between those topics. He also enjoys reading and researching the impact of leadership in the public sector and its impact upon variables such as morale, work productivity and more.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

Be sure to read all of our Featured Faculty posts. [Chris Rhoades](#), [Dean Keith Faulkner](#).

## Alumni Spotlight



Shayne Sanders— HSOG 2017 Graduate

As always, the Helms School is proud to frame the successes of our alumni. Shayne Sanders graduated in 2017 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice: Strategic Intelligence and in 2019 with an M.A. in Public Policy. Tim works in Washington, D.C., as a Political & Advocacy Coordinator for the American Crossroads Senate Leadership Fund SuperPAC. Shayne currently works in the State Department's Office of Children's Issues (CA/OCS/CI) as a Country Officer. He implements the Hague Convention on International Parental Child Abduction with partner countries to facilitate the return of children taken from their country of "habitual residence". When he's not working or studying, he is a member at Capitol Hill Baptist Church, and loves hanging out with friends, reading, fly-fishing, playing basketball, and building scale models.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

Be sure to read our Featured Alumni post on [Blake](#).



## Student Spotlight



Tavia Bruxellas – AHS Vice President

And finally, we are always so proud of our fantastic Helms students. Tavia Bruxellas is a senior International Relations major who became very involved in clubs at Liberty by joining the Alexander Hamilton Society serving as the Vice President. She joined the Senate in the fall semester of 2019 and now is the President where she leads the senate as they make a difference on Liberty's campus. Two summers ago, she studied abroad in Malaga, Spain and interned for Christar International, Big Eurnova, and the European Commission to help combat the joblessness among immigrants and refugees in Spain.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

Be sure to read all of our Featured Students posts. [Bess](#), [Nathan](#), [Peter](#), [Evan](#).

## Fulbright Scholars



We are so proud of the six Liberty student semifinalists who have applied to the Fulbright Scholars program. In addition, we are incredibly grateful that we have four faculty who are also semifinalists for the 2021-22 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. This is particularly exciting because we have never had this many faculty semifinalists before. As the program is administered through the Helms School, we are so thrilled to see its success under, Dr. Edna Udobong.

READ MORE on our [Facebook page](#).

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