



# Helms School of Government Newsletter

## Spring 2023

For more information, visit our [Website](#), [Facebook](#), & [Instagram](#)

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## Welcome from Dean Robert Hurt



**Dean Robert Hurt**

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 of Government newsletter – for Spring 2023.

First, we hope that you will join us in congratulating Liberty University's Class of 2023! Our Helms graduates have worked hard to earn their degrees and we are expecting great things from them. And we hope that each of you will join us at the Liberty Arena on Thursday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. for the graduate degree program and Saturday, May 13 at 10:00 a.m. for the undergraduate degree program as we present special awards and confer degrees to the Class of 2023.

You are also invited to Liberty University's main Commencement Ceremony featuring Evangelist and Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham on Friday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Williams Stadium.

This semester, we were blessed to have a number of distinguished guests engage with our students. These guests included Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, former Virginia Governors George Allen and Bob McDonnell, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence Marc Short, and former White House Advisor Tim Goeglein.

We were also pleased to lead several trips during the semester. We hosted a Legal and Public Policy Forum at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. Professor Amanda Trent led a criminal justice trip to the Western Virginia Regional Jail, and Professor Tony Cothron led an international relations trip to Fort Bragg. Professor Scott Roenicke led intelligence students to visit the Chinese and Polish Embassies and led a group of students to make a presentation to analysts at the Pentagon and FBI Richmond. Dr. Edna Udobong led a group to participate in a United Nations competition in New York.

We were proud to host our third annual Spring Public Policy Conference, which featured Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and North Korean Defector and Human Rights Advocate Yeonmi Park, as well as 7 plenary session panels, 20 plus breakout sessions, and more than 50 paper presentations.

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 do that 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.

## Spring 2023 Public Policy Conference



**Florida Governor Ron DeSantis**

In April, we hosted our Third Annual Spring Public Policy Conference, which featured Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and North Korean Defector and Human Rights Activist Yeonmi Park, as well as 7 plenary session panels, over 20 breakout sessions, and more than 50 paper presentations. It was a three-day conference, themed “Promise of the Declaration: Building on the Legacy of Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness”. Check out our [program](#) and articles from [Liberty News](#), [LU Champion](#), and our [social media](#).



**Yeonmi Park**



## Spring 2023 Public Policy Conference Plenary Session Panels & Paper Presentations



**Constitution Panel with Quena Gonzalez, Dr. Ferdon, Major Andrew Joseph Bibb, and Zane Richer**



**Education & Family Policy Panel with Dr. Fischer, Dr. Jennifer Bauwens, and Dr. Shannae Anderson**



**Energy Panel with Professor Van Allen, Scott Kopple and Jack Spencer**



**Cybersecurity Panel with Professor Roenicke, Shawn Turskey, Colonel Benjamin Bishop, and Mike Harasimowicz**



**National Security Panel with Professor Cothron, Neil Wiley, Kevin Freeman, and Dr. Carl Rehberg**



**Human Trafficking Panel with Professor Presley, Heather Fischer, Dean Morse Tan, and Kristi Wells**

# Spring 2023 Public Policy Conference

## Plenary Session Panels & Paper Presentations



**Professional Development Panel with Dr. Prentice, Grace Barron, and Dr. James Carafano**



**Graduate Student Graciela Phillipps presents "Middle Eastern Defense: The Role of the Abraham Accords"**



**Undergraduate Student Riley Banker presents "Limitations for Liberty"**



**Undergraduate Student Patricia Cazeau presents "Challenges Facing the Reunification of Korea"**



**Undergraduate Student Logan Marcotte presents "A Religious Society Promotes a Flourishing Nation"**



**Undergraduate Student Analeise Wasenius presenting "The Influence of Montesquieu on American Ideals"**



## **“Pig on the Mountain” Crime Scene Investigation Exercise**



**Students Participate in Pig on the Mountain with Virginia State Police**

The Helms School of Government, in partnership with several Virginia law enforcement agencies, hosted its annual Pig on the Mountain crime scene investigation exercise at Hydaway Outdoor Center. This all-day event offered 80 criminal justice students the opportunity to gain experience outside the classroom through different crime scene simulations, such as water recovery and a simulated terrorist bomb scene. Many thanks to Professor Larry Presley for leading this event, and we thank our law enforcement partners for their willingness to participate and their service to our nation. Read more about Pig on the Mountain [here](#).



**Virginia State Police Discussing Recruitment**



**Students Observe a Water Recovery Exercise**

## Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares Visit



**Attorney General Jason Miyares**

The Helms School of Government was honored to welcome Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares. In his class visits, Attorney General Miyares lectured on topics such as state government, federalism, and the separation of powers. Students also had the opportunity to attend a panel discussion on federalism with guest Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to the Vice President and White House Director of Legislative Affairs. Attorney General Miyares wrapped up his visit by speaking to the student body at Convocation. We hope our students enjoyed this special opportunity, and we thank Attorney General Miyares for his service to the Commonwealth. Read more about his visit [here](#).



## Virginia Governors George Allen & Bob McDonnell Visit



**Governor George Allen and Governor Bob McDonnell**

Former Governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Bob McDonnell and George Allen, came to visit our classes for College For A Weekend this semester! The Governors visited courses to lecture about relevant issues such as the national debt, inflation, and crime, and they also answered questions from students. We are grateful to have the Governors with us, and we look forward to their next visit. Read more about their visit [here](#).



## **“Geo-Political Competition: China & Russia” Panel Hosted by Marc Short**



**Marc Short, Brendan Stickles, Nick Snyder, and Mike Allen**

In February, the Helms School of Government was privileged to host a panel discussion titled “Geo-Political Competition: China & Russia,” with special guests Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to the Vice President and former White House Director of Legislative Affairs, Mike Allen, former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counter-Proliferation Strategy, Brendan Stickles, former Defense Advisor to the Vice President, and Nick Snyder, Deputy Coordinator in the Office of China Coordination for the U.S. Department of State. Students had the exclusive opportunity to attend this discussion about national security, Chinese and Russian relations, counter-proliferation, and future implications for the United States from a global perspective. Read more about the panel [here](#).

## Lt. Col. Allen West Visit & “Bulletproof Mind” Lecture with Lt. Col. Dave Grossman



**Lieutenant Colonel Allen West**

The Helms School of Government was pleased to host Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Allen B. West. Lt. Col. West served in the U.S. Army from 1983 through 2004 and was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010. In his class visit, Lt. Col. West and Dean Hurt held a discussion on the importance of engaging in civic duty. We are so thankful for his visit to Liberty and service to our nation. Read more about his visit [here](#).

In March, the Helms School of Government and the School of Behavioral Sciences were honored to host Lt. Col. Dave Grossman for a special training presentation to members of law enforcement called "Bulletproof Mind" that included over a hundred officers from more than a dozen state and local agencies. In addition to the special afternoon training session, Lt. Col. Grossman and Mike Baldwin also lectured in criminal justice and sociology classes in the morning. We hope our local law enforcement officers and our Liberty students enjoyed the events. We are grateful to Lt. Col. Grossman and Mike Baldwin for visiting us, and we are grateful for all law enforcement officers and the sacrifices they make to keep us safe. Read more about his visit [here](#).



**Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman**

## Major General Jason Bohm & Robert Greenway Visits



**Major General Jason Bohm**

In February, the Helms School of Government was pleased to host Major General Jason Bohm, Inspector General for the United States Marine Corps. General Bohm taught classes on military operations and organization, terrorism, and geopolitics, and he also had the opportunity to speak in classes during College for A Weekend. We are thankful for General Bohm's service to our nation and look forward to his next visit. Read more about his visit [here](#).

The Helms School of Government was pleased to welcome back Executive Director of the Abraham Accords Institute of Peace, Robert Greenway. Mr. Greenway has more than 30 years in public service as a senior U.S. government official as Assistant to the President, a member of the National Security Council and the U.S. Army Special Forces. We thank Robert Greenway for meeting with our students in classes and thank him for his service to our nation. Read more about his visit [here](#).



**Robert Greenway**



## Michael Samarov & Tim Goeglein Visits



**Michael Samarov**

The Helms School of Government was privileged to host Colonel (ret.) Michael Samarov (USMC), who presented to various classes on U.S. national security issues. Topics addressed included the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the geopolitical history of Eurasian regions, terrorist cell formation, planning and executing military operations, and U.S. government decision-making processes.

Colonel Samarov served with distinction in the U.S. military for nearly 30 years. He was deployed in regions of the world ranging from the Western Pacific, to the Persian Gulf, to Latin America. His assignments included the Commanding Officer of the 25th Marine Regiment, and Commander of the Special

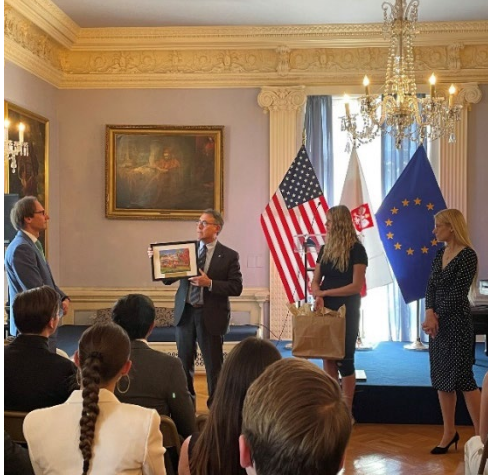
Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force in Southern Command. He subsequently served in the Strategic Plans & Policy Directorate of the Joint Staff as a trusted senior advisor to two Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – General Joseph Dunford and current Chairman, General Mark Milley. We are grateful for his service to the Nation and for his invaluable contribution to our students’ education. We look forward to his next visit to Liberty University. Read more about his visit [here](#).



**Tim Goeglein with Dean's Council Members**

The Helms School of Government was pleased to welcome back Mr. Tim Goeglein, Vice President of Government Relations for Focus on the Family and former Special Assistant to President George W. Bush. Mr. Goeglein visited classes teaching from his new book, “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Moral and Cultural Case for Teaching the Great American Story.” We are thankful for his visit and look forward to seeing him again soon. Read more about his visit [here](#).

## Students Visit Chinese & Polish Embassies



**Professor Roenicke Presenting a Portrait to the Polish Embassy**

After departing the Chinese Embassy, students visited the Polish Embassy where they heard from Minister Counselor Adrian Chrobot. Mr. Chrobot and his embassy colleagues discussed Poland's perspective on both European and NATO security issues, as well as their experience and perspectives on being an international diplomat. The Helms School of Government is grateful for the hospitality of these embassies in providing our students real-world experience in the realm of diplomacy and national security. Read more about this trip [here](#).

In April, students from the Helms School of Government engaged senior foreign diplomats during a trip to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. The delegation comprised students from Professor Scott Roenicke's International Relations and Post-Communist Politics classes.

The HSOG delegation was hosted by Minister Counselor Liu Pengyu, Head of the Information Department at the Chinese Embassy. Students questioned the senior diplomat on topics such as the United States' bilateral relationship with China, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and the relevance of Artificial Intelligence to international security challenges.

After departing the Chinese Embassy, students visited the Polish Embassy where they heard from Minister Counselor



**Helms Students Inside the Chinese Embassy**



## Students Visit Fort Bragg & Model UN Club Participates in NYU Competition

Helms School of Government students from Liberty's Strategic Intelligence course had an incredible visit to the US Army's Fort Bragg, North Carolina, base. Dean Hurt and Professor Tony Cothron accompanied the students who received a tour of the Army's Blackhawk and Apache helicopters from pilots who fly the combat-capable aircraft. After the aircraft tour, students were able to listen to a panel of seven Army Intelligence professionals describe their jobs and how they support operational forces.



**Helms Students at Fort Bragg**

This was a unique opportunity to learn what intelligence is needed and how the intelligence process works to support decision-makers and troops on the ground. The most impressive part of the trip was the knowledge and professionalism of the US Army personnel they met. Thank you to the personnel at Fort Bragg for a great visit and service to our nation. Read more about the trip [here](#).



**Liberty Model United Nations Team in Central Park**

In March, the Liberty United Nations Association traveled to New York City to compete in New York University's Collegiate Model UN competition. Students were required to negotiate resolutions over geopolitical trade wars and conflicts over the space race. The team also had the opportunity to visit the United Nations headquarters in New York City, visiting the General Assembly and Security Council. We thank Dr. Edna Udobong and are proud of our students and congratulate them for their hard work. Read more about the trip [here](#).



## Students Participate in Legal & Public Policy Forum at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.



**Judicial Crisis Network's Carrie Severino Answers Students' Questions**



**Kellie Fiedorek of Alliance Defending Freedom and plaintiff Lorie Smith**

In March, the Helms School of Government hosted a Legal & Public Policy Forum at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. The Forum – which focused on the students in our undergraduate Pre-Law program – was organized by our friend Tim Goeglein from Focus on the Family. Students had the opportunity to engage directly with special guests Carrie Severino from the Judicial Crisis Network, Heritage Vice President of Domestic Policy Roger Severino, Senior Counsel for First Liberty Institute Mike Berry, and Senior Counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom Kellie Fiedorek. In addition, students were able to hear directly from Lorie Smith – the Plaintiff in the important religious freedom case currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court in *303 Creative v. Elenis*. After the presentations at the Heritage Foundation, students had the opportunity to tour the U.S. Capitol. We are grateful to Mr. Goeglein and all of our special guests. Read more about the trip [here](#).



**Students Outside the U.S. Capitol Building**

## Criminal Justice Students Visit Western Virginia Regional Jail



**Helms Students hearing from Corrections Officer**

In February, over 80 students from the CJUS program traveled to the Western Virginia Regional Jail in Salem, Virginia for a unique experience. The correctional facility had two open housing units, and students were granted access and housed as offenders for the majority of the day. The students were able to experience firsthand the classification, booking, and housing process and were provided the opportunity to go to recreation. The program's staff were on hand to speak with the students regarding all of the opportunities the offenders have within the facility to improve and also heard from an incarcerated individual for a question-and-answer session. Many thanks to Professor Trent and the Western Virginia Regional Jail for this amazing opportunity. Read more about the trip [here](#).

## Criminal Justice Students Visit Forensic Sciences Central Lab in Richmond, Virginia



**Helms Students Pose in Front of the Medical**

office is responsible for reviewing suspicious, unusual, or unnatural deaths, and the Richmond lab has the largest "bone" lab in the state, which contains the skeletal remains of unidentified victims going back to the 1970s. Students toured the autopsy rooms, x-ray room, and epidemiology and medical examiner offices.

In February, Professor Larry Presley's Criminal Investigations II class visited Virginia's Forensic Sciences Central Lab in Richmond. The Department of Forensic Science performs scientific analysis and examination of evidence in criminal matters. Students toured the laboratory and saw types of analyses, including DNA, trace evidence, toxicology, drug analyses, firearms and toolmarks, latent prints, and gunshot residue.

Our Helms School students also had the opportunity to visit Virginia's Medical Examiner Lab. The Medical Examiner's

office is responsible for reviewing suspicious, unusual, or unnatural deaths, and the Richmond lab has the largest "bone" lab in the state, which contains the skeletal remains of unidentified victims going back to the 1970s. Students toured the autopsy rooms, x-ray room, and epidemiology and medical examiner offices. Many thanks to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science and the Medical Examiner's office for hosting our students and for the important work these public servants do for our criminal justice system. Special thanks to Professor Larry Presley for leading this amazing trip for our Helms students! Read more about the trip [here](#).



## LASI Presents at Pentagon & FBI Richmond



**LASI Presenting Before Pentagon Officials**

In April, Liberty University’s multidisciplinary student analytical teams – led by Helms School Professor Scott Roenicke -- traveled to the Pentagon to brief senior decision-makers in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate on important national security topics. The two respective Liberty Analytical Support Initiative (LASI) teams presented their findings after spending the semester researching and analyzing the critical national security taskings provided to them by these U.S. Government sponsors.

These topics were U.S. national security priorities that are currently being worked on at senior levels in the Department of Defense, thereby offering undergraduate and graduate students from several Liberty schools the unparalleled opportunity of working on real-world problems and contributing in meaningful ways to their solutions. Liberty University is deeply grateful to the Department of Defense for its willingness to support the practical education of our students, and we thank them for their invaluable contribution to our Nation’s security. Read more about the trip [here](#).

Later that week, another team of Liberty University students provided a detailed analytical briefing to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at its Richmond Headquarters. Students from the Schools of Business, Behavioral Sciences, Communications and the Arts, Government, and Army ROTC constituted key team members who presented their findings to the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Richmond field office. The topic addressed dealt with a sensitive federal law enforcement and national security challenge.



**Richmond FBI Officials with LASI Team**

The FBI, in turn, provided team members with a briefing highlighting key areas of interest for recruiting new FBI personnel and detailed the process for application. This effort provides real-world experience and contacts for future job opportunities. Liberty University offers its sincere thanks to the FBI for enriching our students’ educational experience and further conveys appreciation for the Bureau’s service to the Nation. Read more about their trip [here](#).



## Moot Court & Mock Trial



**Mock Trial A Team**

In January, the Helms School of Government sent six of our Moot Court competition teams to the American Moot Court Association National Championships in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We are proud to report that the team of Tori Hu and Emma Scharstein made it to the Round of 16 and that the team of Sophia Ekstrom and Cameron Vis made it to the Round of 32. In addition, several of our Helms students won brief-writing awards. Congratulations to the Moot Court Team for a successful season, and thanks to Professors Rathsam and Vorberger for leading our teams. Read more about Moot Court [here](#).

In February, three of our Helms School Pre-Law Mock Trial teams competed in the first round of the national Mock Trial tournament. At William & Mary, both our A and B teams were named Regional Champions and are headed to Washington, D.C., for the opening round of the national championship tournament. Special congratulations to Emma Scharstein for earning the All-Region Attorney Award. Also this weekend, our C team competed at American University in Washington, D.C. with special congratulations to Madison Bennett for winning the All-Region Witness Award.

In March, our Mock Trial team competed in the Opening Round Championship Series. The B Team took three ballots, and the A team took five ballots and narrowly missed the cut to the Nationals Championships by a secondary measure tiebreaker. Emma Scharstein won the award for All-National Attorney and Jack Liechty for All-National Witness. The Mock Trial Teams' accomplishments set new accomplishments for the program with their best showing this weekend. Congratulations to the teams for an outstanding season. Read more about Mock Trial [here](#).



**Mock Trial B Team**

## Journal of Statesmanship of Public Policy & SIFA



The Helms School of Government is excited to announce the release of Volume 3, Issue 2 edition of the Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy! Articles in this issue cover topics such as American Exceptionalism, International Relations, and Historical Economics.

The Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy aims to provide an engaging analysis of issues in international and domestic policy, national security, and political philosophy from a thoughtful, ethical, and Christian perspective. Read the Journal [here](#).



The Strategic Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Initiative (SIFA) is a weekly effort of national security students conducting news collection, analysis, and briefing on the most current domestic and international news from a U.S. national security perspective. Each week the students change their role in the process in order to learn how each section works to gain experience similar to that in an intelligence community watch. The students brief Helms School of Government Professors and create a weekly analysis newsletter that is sent to all Helms faculty and staff, as well as intelligence community professionals. To register for the newsletter, contact the SIFA team at [libertysifa@gmail.com](mailto:libertysifa@gmail.com).

# LIBERTY

## UNIVERSITY

HELMS SCHOOL *of*  
GOVERNMENT

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