

Spring 2022

## Helms School of Government Newsletter - Spring 2022

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# Helms School of Government Newsletter

## Spring 2022

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## Welcome from the Deans



Dean - Robert Hurt

Online Dean - Ron Miller

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 2022.

First, we hope that you will join us in congratulating Liberty University's Class of 2022! 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 5 at 2:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. as we present special awards and confer degrees to the Class of 2022. You are also invited to Liberty University's main Commencement Ceremony featuring John C. Maxwell on Friday, May 6 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 Governor Glenn Youngkin, former Virginia Governors George Allen and Bob McDonnell, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence Marc Short, former White House Advisor Tim Goeglein, Colonel Mike Samarov, Vice Admiral Thomas Wilson, former ODNI Principal Executive Neil Wiley, Virginia Supreme Court Justice William C. Mims, Secretary of Public Safety Bob Mosier, and the Assistant Secretary of Public Safety and Helms graduate, Ashley Traficant.

We were also pleased to lead several trips to Washington during the semester. Professor Roenicke led students to visit Deputy Head of Mission Benjamin Krasna at the Israeli Embassy and to visit with intelligence analysts at the NSA and the Pentagon. Dr. Udobong led a group to participate in the United Nations simulation in Charlotte, North Carolina.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about our Helms School Negotiations team winning the 2022 National Undergraduate Negotiation Competition. In addition we were proud to host our second [Public Policy Conference](#) which was headlined by Governor Glenn Youngkin and featured more than 70 presenters and was attended by more than 850 participants. This semester, we were pleased to reach over 10,000 downloads of our [Journal of Statesmanship and Public Policy](#). Finally, be sure and check out the Helms School's newest publication the [Undergraduate Law Review](#).

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 2022 Public Policy Conference



Dean Robert Hurt with Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin

The Helms School of Government 2022 Public Policy Conference was a tremendous success! We are thankful to have heard from notable guests such as Governor Glenn Youngkin, former Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and former Governor George Allen, along with Virginia House Speaker Todd Gilbert and Virginia Senator Steve Newman. Thank you to every participant who attended online and in person, and to our student presenters for their research and in the arena of public policy. We especially want to thank all our faculty and staff who helped make this event possible. Looking forward to next year!

Read more on the Public Policy Conference [here](#).

## Abraham Accords Panel featuring Ambassadors of Bahrain, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates



Abraham Peace Accords Ambassadors

The Helms School of Government and the School of Business hosted the Abraham Accords Peace Institute for a discussion of Future Peace in the Middle East. We were joined by Robert Greenway, architect of the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement; Ambassador Gilad Erdan, Israel Ambassador to the United Nations; Ambassador Abdulla Al Khalifa, Bahrain Ambassador to the United States; and Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba, United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States in a collaborative conversation. We thank all of our guests for attending and hope you enjoyed this opportunity!

Read more on the Ambassadors [here](#).



## **Guests – Former Virginia Governor George Allen, Governor Bob McDonnell, and Vice President Chief of Staff Marc Short**

The Helms School of Government had the pleasure of hosting Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence and former Legislative Director for President Donald Trump. Short visited various classes and taught on the politics and policy of tax reform. We hope you enjoyed his lectures and look forward to having him again soon!



Chief of Staff Marc Short



Governors Bob McDonnell (left) and Governor George Allen (right)

In addition, Former Virginia Governors George Allen and Governor Bob McDonnell visited the Helms School of Government for the Spring Public Policy Conference. The Governors participated in a legislative panel and spoke in various classes regarding politics and policy.

Read more on the [Governors](#) and [Marc Short](#).

## Guests – Admiral Tom Wilson & Tim Goeglein



Admiral Thomas R. Wilson

The Helms School of Government was delighted to host former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Vice Admiral Thomas R. Wilson! Admiral Wilson lectured on his career in the Navy and at DIA beginning in the Cold War through the September 11 attacks. We are thankful for his visit, and we hope he will come back to visit again in the future!

Read more on Admiral Wilson [here](#).



Tim Goeglein

The Helms School of Government also had the honor to host Tim Goeglein, former White House Advisor in the Bush Administration and Vice President of External and Government Relations for Focus on the Family. During his visit, Mr. Goeglein spoke in various classes analyzing the state of the U.S. Supreme Court. We are so thankful for the opportunity to hear from him this semester and look forward to having him again soon!

Read more on Tim Goeglein [here](#).

## Guests – Neil Wiley, Jason Bohm, & Michael Samarov



Director Neil Wiley



Major General Jason Bohm



Colonel Michael Samarov

The Helms School and the Strategic Intelligence Society were honored to host Neil Wiley, former Principal Executive of ODNI and DIA Director of Analysis! Mr. Wiley spoke to students regarding modern strategic intelligence and national security initiatives. It is always a pleasure to have him visit, and we are thankful for our student leadership at SIS.

The Helms School of Government also had the honor of hosting Major General Jason Bohm, Commanding General for the U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Command. General Bohm spoke in various classes and student clubs analyzing Geopolitics today and strategic intelligence, sharing his experiences serving in the military. We are so thankful our students and faculty had the opportunity to hear from General Bohm and look forward to having him again soon!

In addition, the Helms School of Government was privileged to host Colonel Michael Samarov who visited Helms School of Government classes to discuss a range of issues including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Just War Theory. Colonel Samarov taught in various international relations classes alongside Professor Roenicke who also served at the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Colonel Samarov's tenure. We are so thankful for his visit and look forward to having him again soon!

Read more on [Wiley](#), [Bohm](#), and [Samarov](#) here.



## Guests – Justice William Mims & Secretary Bob Mosier



Justice William C. Mims

The Helms School of Government was pleased to host Virginia Supreme Court Justice William C. Mims during College For A Weekend! As a former Attorney General and state legislator, Justice Mims lectured in various classes on the topics of criminal justice, constitutional government, and the important responsibility that lawyers have to their clients and to the public. We are so thankful for this opportunity and hope to have Justice Mims visit us again soon!

As well, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety, Bob Mosier and Assistant Secretary of Public Safety, Ashley Traficant, who graduated from the Helms School in 2016 visited the Helms School of Government. They spoke about the importance of law enforcement. In addition, they spoke about the new criminal justice initiatives that are taking place in the new Governor's administration. It was an honor to have them both here and we are thankful for their service.



Secretary Bob Mosier

Read more on [Justice Mims](#) and [Secretary Mosier](#).

## Students Visit Israeli Embassy in Washington



Deputy Head of Mission Benjamin Krasna

Dean of the Helms School of Government Robert Hurt and Professor Scott Roenicke led a group of students on a trip to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC to meet with Deputy Chief of Mission Benjamin Krasna and Minister Counselor for Political Affairs Dovrat Zilberstein. The purpose of the visit was to provide Liberty students with an unparalleled opportunity to discuss Israel's approach to countering terrorism with senior diplomats responsible for such matters on a day-to-day basis. Throughout the semester, many of these students had intensively studied international relations, international terrorism, and the modalities for countering terrorism. The group was also afforded the privilege of visiting the Pentagon's 9/11 Memorial, as well as the U.S. Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memoria.

Read more on the Israel Embassy trip [here](#).

## Students Visit USS Gerald Ford



Faculty and Students aboard the USS Ford Flight Deck

Dean Hurt, Rear Admiral Cothron, Professor Cooper, and 35 Strategic Intelligence students traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to visit the nation's newest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford. Students had the opportunity to tour the new carrier with Commander Jake Wilson, the ship's Intelligence Officer. On the flight deck, Professor Cooper led a prayer to bless the ship and the crew's missions. The crew was given a Bible signed by the faculty and students who visited as a token of their appreciation. The Helms School of Government is grateful for this wonderful opportunity and hope our students were inspired by this visit!

Read more on the USS Ford Trip [here](#).



## Students Visit NSA and Pentagon



Students and Faculty meet with Senior Officials

The Liberty Analytic Support Initiative (LASI) team briefed key cybersecurity officials at the National Security Agency, as well as senior officials within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense at the Pentagon. The student team shared a framework for conducting sentiment analysis for multimedia and discussed the national security implications of changing natural resource competition. Both the Pentagon and NSA participants emphasized the importance of the work done by the students and were eager to collaborate on the team's analytical findings. One senior Department of Defense official expressed his sincere appreciation for their complex analysis while noting its contribution to their deeper understanding of the problem set. He further voiced his confidence that these future national security professionals will be more than ready to take the baton from the current generation of leaders when the time comes.

Read more on the [NSA and Pentagon Trip](#).



## Students Participate in Model United Nations Simulation



Liberty University Model UN Team

The Liberty United Nations Association participated in the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our students represented Israel and Rwanda among 30 other universities in negotiating issues such as the war in Ukraine, peace in Afghanistan, and climate change. Students of the Israel Delegation won the Best Delegate Honorable Delegation Awards, crediting their leadership in the negotiation process.

Read more on the [Model UN Simulation](#).

## Students Visit Museum of the Bible

Earlier this week, Helms School of Government students traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with several Members of Congress including our local Congressmen Ben Cline and Bob Good. Students had the opportunity to engage with these policymakers at a critical time in our nation's history. In addition, students also had the opportunity to tour the Museum of the Bible. We are grateful to Dean Dave Brat and all of the Members of Congress who took the time to visit with our students.



Students at Museum of the Bible

Read more on the Museum of the Bible trip [here](#).

# Moot Court, Mock Trial, & Negotiations



2022 Mock Trial Team

Liberty University Mock Trial teams competed in the Mock Trial Regional Tournament. Congratulations to Team A who was crowned the Regional Champion! We would also like to congratulate Dalton Davis and Emma Scharstein for being awarded All-Regional Attorney Awards, and Collyn Kim, Cody Butler, and Jody Weathersby for their All-Regional Witness Awards!

In April. Our negotiations team that included Dalton Davis and Collyn Ki, beat Baylor University to win the Negotiations National Championship. Dalton Davis was named overall Top Negotiator in the nation. Congratulations to Dr. Ben Rathsam and our students for this great win – the second national title for our Pre-Law program in two years!



Dalton Davis and Collyn Kim with Dr. Rathsam

Read more on the [Mock Trial team](#) and [Negotiations](#).



## Students Participate in White House Simulation



Students Participate in the White House Simulation

Professor Roenicke hosted a White House Briefing simulation with students representing White House cabinet members. The goal of the simulation was to help students formulate a response to a given international crisis by using rapid critical thinking, cooperation, and communication skills. We are thankful for Professor Roenicke and hope our students enjoyed the experience!

Read more on the simulation [here](#).

## Students Brief Virginia State Police

Last week, Helms School Associate Dean and Criminal Justice Program Chair Dr. Joel Cox led a group of students in presenting a briefing to a team from the Virginia State Police Fusion Center. The students focused on conducting open-source research regarding safety measures beneficial to the Commonwealth. Thank you to the Virginia State Police for giving our students this opportunity to gain practical experience for the future!

Read more about the VSP briefing [here](#).



Students at the VSP Briefing

# SIFA Newsletter and Public Policy Journal

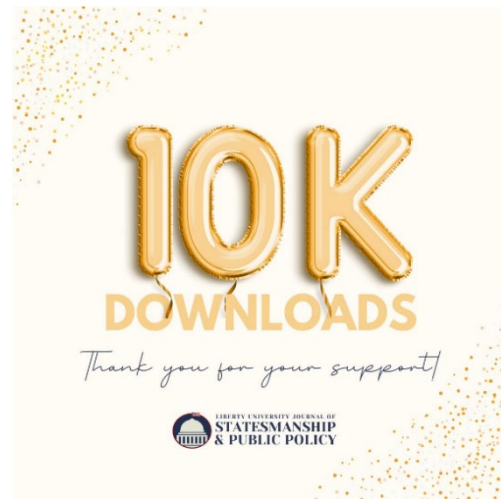


The Helms School of Government newsletter, the Strategic Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Initiative, involves 30 students from multiple backgrounds that monitor and research both domestic and international news for key strategic developments. The students collect articles on a weekly basis to create newsletters and brief Helms School of Government faculty and outside professionals on the details of key developments in the world and in our nation.

Professor Scott Roenicke affirmed the work of our students, “Through this experience, I am seeing some fairly sophisticated analyses that I might not have seen had I only engaged these students in a classroom setting, and it gives me a lot of faith in the coming generation of

analysts, who are gaining important exposure into the daily activities occurring within U.S. government agencies. This gives them experience that they would normally only obtain through a formal internship in Washington, D.C., but they’re doing it here at Liberty at the same time as completing all their coursework.”

The [Journal of Statesmanship and Public Policy](#) officially hit 10,000 downloads! With reads from around the world, the Helms School of Government would like to congratulate our team at JSPP for their commitment to research and analysis on current topics through a Biblical perspective.



Read more on the [Statesmanship and Public Policy Journal](#) and [SIFA Journal](#).



## Student Spotlight – Ashlyn Newcomer, Daniel Hostetter, and Brent Schuliger



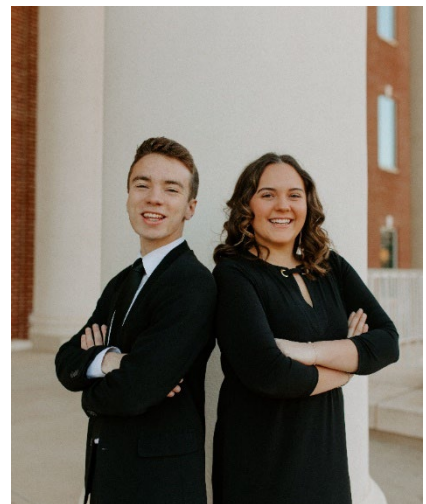
Ashlyn Newcomer

Ashlyn is a sophomore from Kent Island, Maryland studying Government: Politics and Policy with a Minor in Criminal Justice. She is involved in LU Mock Trial, Pre-Law Society, and Converge Leadership Program. In her free time, she also enjoys being with friends and working out.

This semester, Ashlyn was appointed as SGA Senator representing the Helms School of Government alongside fellow Helms Senator Ryeana Klopfenstein. “I am most looking forward to working with the student body here at Liberty and advocating for their everyday needs. I am passionate about ensuring people that their voices are heard, and hope to accomplish this.”

As well, the Helms School of Government would like to congratulate the new Student Body President of SGA, Daniel Hostetter! Daniel is a rising junior, part of the Helms School studying Government Politics & Policy. He previously served as the SGA Speaker of House of Delegates and is looking forward to serving the university in his new position.

“Above all else, the Student Body President must serve the student body. I'm excited to do that by connecting students to local churches and service opportunities, building strong relationships of trust between students and administration, and advocating for expanded accessible student services.” We are excited for Daniel as he steps into this leadership role next semester!



2022-2023 Student Body President  
Daniel Hostetter and Vice  
President Riley Foster



Brent Schuliger

The Helms School of Government is excited to congratulate Liberty University's first-ever Boren Scholar Award recipient, Brent Schuliger! Brent is a graduating senior studying National Security and International Relations. He will be living in Indonesia, serving as a Department of Defense National Security Scholar and studying the Bahasa Indonesian language. He is excited to learn Indonesian history, hike the volcanoes and mountains, and swim along Indonesia's beaches. Brent gives his thanks to God for the opportunity, and especially to Dr. Udobong, Professor Roenicke, and Admiral Cothron for their support throughout the application process. We are so proud of Brent and hope he enjoys his time abroad!

Read more on [Ashlyn](#), [Daniel](#), and [Brent](#).

# Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Cox, Professor Presley, & Dr. Fischer



Dr. Joel Cox

Liberty since 2015

Meet Dr. Cox! He is the Associate Dean for the Helms School of Government and Professor of Criminal Justice and Government. He has been an LU residential professor for 10 years!

With over 24 years of law enforcement experience, Dr. Cox has served with the Virginia State Police, the Powhatan County Sheriff's Office, and Virginia Beach Police Department where he retired.

Fun Fact: his favorite term is Semper Gumby which means "Always Flexible", he has rappelled "face first" Australian Style off an 80' building and climbed up the side of a 900' cruise ship while it was underway (long story)!

Meet Professor Presley! He is Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice. Professor Presley has been at



Professor Lawrence Presley

Before coming to Liberty University, he served as a Supervisory Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 21 years. While assigned to the FBI Laboratory Division, he served as Chief of the DNA Analysis Unit and Chief of the Quality Assurance Unit. He also served as a Department of Defense United States Army civilian as the Expeditionary Forensic Laboratory Chief in Afghanistan.

Fun Fact: Professor Presley's favorite meal is the \$1.50 Costco hotdog and recommends everyone to try it with ketchup, mustard,

and onions! Professor Presley wishes to encourage students with his favorite verse, Micah 6:8, to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. We are so thankful to have him as part of the Helms family!



Dr. Kahlil Fischer

Our very own Dr. Kahlil Fischer was recently announced as a Fellow at [Ariel University](#) in Israel. In this new role, he hopes to foster a collaborative partnership with Ariel University particularly on the topic of genocide. The Helms School of Government hopes for future opportunities in connection to Ariel University for Liberty faculty and students to research and write on these very important challenges from a Biblical perspective.

Read more on [Dr. Cox](#), [Professor Presley](#), and [Dr. Fischer](#).

# Thank You - Professor Robert Cooper



Professor Robert Cooper

Please join us at the Helms School of Government in thanking Professor Robert Cooper for his 7 years of service to Liberty University. Earlier in the spring, Professor Cooper announced that he will be retiring at the end of the spring semester.

Professor Cooper came to Liberty after serving 34 years in various posts in the Navy and Department of Defense. Robert “Coops” Cooper first enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve in 1985, received his B.S., Biology, from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1987, and subsequently reported to Aviation Officer Candidate School to become a designated Naval Flight Officer in 1991.

Lieutenant Commander Cooper served multiple tours in Japan, East Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, and Western Pacific. He served various roles in Operations, Training, Administration, and Inspections/Evaluations. Cooper retired in 2009 with multiple Naval and Marine Corps awards, over

2,000 flight hours in 10 aircraft, and 437 carriers arrested landings “traps.”

Before coming to Liberty, Professor Cooper served from 2009 to 2015 as a Senior Analyst to the Inspector General, Special Plans and Operations Directorate where he has made significant contributions to the Evaluations of US Government Efforts to Develop Afghan and Iraqi Security Forces, Afghan Air Force, Global Counter-Terrorism Operations, Battle of Wanat and the DoD Safety Program.

Professor Cooper is married to the former Alicia Scott, and they have three beautiful children and two granddaughters. We are deeply grateful for the years Professor Cooper has given to our students and to his colleagues at the Helms School. And although we will miss him here on campus in Lynchburg, we are pleased that he will continue to teach online for Liberty University going forward. Please enjoy these photos of Professor Cooper and his family, and we hope that you will find time to thank him for his service to our nation and to Liberty University.

Read more on [Professor Cooper](#).

# LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

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GOVERNMENT

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