



# Helms School of Government Newsletter

## Fall 2021

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# Welcome from the Deans



Residential Dean - Robert Hurt      Online Dean - Ron Miller

As our Liberty students head to Christmas break, we wanted to share with you our latest Helms School newsletter for Fall 2021.

In August, we were thrilled to welcome the Class of 2025 to Liberty – along with all of our returning students. In addition to our students, we were also pleased to welcome our newest professors Scott Roenicke and Tony Cothron as a part of our Government & National Security programs. Professor Roenicke brings a wealth of experience to our students through his career as an advisor in support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for more than 30 years. Professor Cothron brings a wealth of experience from his 31 years as a naval intelligence officer, retiring after serving as the Director of Naval Intelligence. We are grateful to all of our outstanding faculty for all of their work in training the next generation of Christian leaders during these challenging times.

In addition to our new faculty, we were blessed to have a number of distinguished guests engage with our students in-person throughout this Fall semester. These guests included 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, Liberty University alum and anchor of Fox News @ Night Shannon Bream, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former Defense Intelligence Agency Director David Shedd, former Principal Executive of ODNI Neil Wiley, and former DIA Deputy Director for Mission Services Jim Manzelmann.

In addition, we were pleased to lead several trips to Washington during the semester. Professor Roenicke led his International Relations class for a timely visit with Deputy Head of Mission Sergey Koshelev at the Russian Embassy. He also led a group of students for a presentation at the NSA and the Pentagon. Dr. Prentice and her Politics of Europe class also participated in the Mid-Atlantic European Union simulation in Washington, D.C.

Finally, in the summer the Helms School of Government launched a new publication called the [Undergraduate Law Review](#). We were very pleased with the result and are in the process of planning the next edition of the Review. We also published our second issue of the Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy and we are planning our second [public policy conference](#) to be held at Liberty next March. We hope you will plan to submit a paper and register to attend.

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 Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you back on campus in January.

## Meet the New Associate Dean and Government Chair



With the retirement of Dr. Stephen Parke in the summer, the Helms School is pleased to announce that Dr. Joel Cox has now taken on the responsibility of Associate Dean for the School of Government. Also, Dr. Kahlib Fischer has taken on the role of Chair for our Government Program. Thank you both and we are excited to see how God will use you in these new positions!

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

## Meet Professor Roenicke, Professor Cothron, and Sharene Duncombe



The Helms School is excited to announce that we have a new Government Professor, Scott Roenicke. Professor Roenicke will be teaching in our international relations and national security classes. Previously, he served as a national policy and strategy advisor in support of the Department of Defense for more than 30 years, during which he supported 8 Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Senior Politico-Military Advisor for Russian Affairs. In December 2011, Mr. Roenicke was selected to be the Director for Russia Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House where he served as the principal Director on Russia-related security, defense, and military matters. He continues to serve the Department of Defense as a Special Governmental Expert.

We are also pleased to introduce our new National Security Program Director, Retired Rear Admiral Tony L. Cothron. Admiral Cothron comes to the Helms School of Government after serving 31 years in the Navy as a naval intelligence officer – where he served as Director of Intelligence for the Chief of Naval Operations and as the 62nd Director of Naval Intelligence. He also served as a flag officer at the National Security Agency and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Upon retiring from the Navy, Admiral Cothron then worked for 12 years at General Dynamics. We are blessed to have Admiral Cothron on our team.

Finally, the Helms School of Government is pleased to introduce Sharene Duncombe, who serves as Faculty Secretary. Sharene comes to Liberty after spending many years teaching college and high school English at Radford University, Ohio Christian University, Virginia Western Community College, Regent University, Ferrum College, and the Roanoke City Public Schools. She is excited to be a part of the Liberty team and is so thankful that God has opened the door for her to join the Helms School of Government: “God is at work in the world, and I want to be a part of what he is doing! Liberty is making a major impact on our country and the world, and I am blessed and humbled that he’s called me serve here,” she said.

Read more on [Professor Roenicke](#), [Professor Cothron](#), and [Sharene Duncombe](#).

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Law Enforcement Lunch



The Helms School of Government and the Liberty University School of Law hosted a 50th Anniversary Law Enforcement Appreciation luncheon to honor law enforcement officers serving in Central Virginia. Former Virginia Governors George Allen and Bob McDonnell were the keynote speakers to the audience that included members of local sheriff's offices, police departments, and the Virginia State Police. We also were honored to have President Jerry Prevo, Provost Scott Hicks, and Pastor Jonathan Falwell join us. We thank all law enforcement officers across the country for their commitment to serving their fellow man!

Read more on the [Law Enforcement Lunch](#).



## **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 former Virginia Governor George Allen and Governor Bob McDonnell! Students were able to hear from them and engage them with thoughtful questions.

In addition, the Helms School of Government hosted Marc Short, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Mike Pence and White House Director of Legislative Affairs under President Trump. We are so thankful our students had this opportunity to hear from him in this visit!

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

## Guests – Shannon Bream, Secretary Mike Pompeo, and House Speaker Newt Gingrich



The Helms School of Government had the pleasure of hosting Shannon Bream, a proud Liberty alum and anchor of Fox News @ Night. We are grateful that our students had this opportunity to engage with her as Liberty University celebrated its 50th Homecoming weekend.

Former Secretary of State and former CIA Director Mike Pompeo visited Liberty University as a part of our Veterans Day observances. That afternoon, three Helms School of Government classes had the privilege of attending a panel discussion featuring Secretary Pompeo, and five of our International Relations students were selected to engage with him directly during the question and answer period. We are grateful to Secretary Pompeo for his service to our nation and for taking the time to share his wisdom and experience with our students.

Helms School of Government students traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with former Speaker of the House and Ambassador Newt Gingrich to discuss public policy issues during this critical time in our nation's history. After the meeting with Speaker Gingrich, the students were able to tour the Museum of the Bible. We are grateful to Speaker Gingrich and to Liberty's School of Business Dean Dave Brat for giving our students this excellent opportunity.

Read more on [Shannon Bream](#), [Secretary Mike Pompeo](#), and [Speaker Gingrich](#).

## Guests – David Shedd, Neil Wiley, Jim Manzelmann



The Helms School of Government and the Strategic Intelligence Society were pleased to host former Defense Intelligence Agency Director David Shedd at Liberty this week! He lectured in classes and met with students on the topic of national security and intelligence. We are so thankful for this opportunity and look forward to having him again soon.

The Helms School and the Strategic Intelligence Society were honored to host Neil Wiley, former Principal Executive of ODNI and DIA Director of Analysis, on October 11! Mr. Wiley spoke to students in several courses including International Relations, Counter-Intelligence and Intro to National Security. Students also had the opportunity to hear and engage with Mr. Wiley at an event the Strategic Intelligence Society hosted. We are thankful for his visit.

The Helms School of Government and the Strategic Intelligence Society had the pleasure of hosting Former Assistant Deputy Director of ODNI and DIA Deputy Director for Mission Services Jim Manzelmann. We are so thankful that students had the opportunity to hear from him.

Read more on Directors [David Shedd](#), [Neil Wiley](#), [Jim Manzelmann](#).



## Guests – Dr. Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen



Dr. Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen speaking at the Law School

Dr. Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen, senior lecturer of public international law at Ariel University in Israel, gave lectures at the Helms School of Government and the School of Law. She also participated in panel discussions with our student clubs such as the Alexander Hamilton Society, Pre-Law Society, and United Nations Association. Our students were engaged and passionate about the topics of international law and genocide in the modern age. We thank Dr. Moodrick for spending time with the Helms School of Government this week and being encouraging to our faculty, staff, and students!

Read more on [Dr. Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen](#).

## Guests – Tim Goeglein

The Helms School of Government was pleased to host Tim Goeglein, former White House Advisor to President George W. Bush and current Vice President of External and Government Relations for Focus on the Family. During his visit, Mr. Goeglein spoke in various classes analyzing Virginia's recent elections. We are thankful for the opportunity to hear him speak and look forward to having him again soon!

Read more on [Tim Goeglein](#).



Tim Goeglein speaking to students in class visit

## Students Visit Russian Embassy

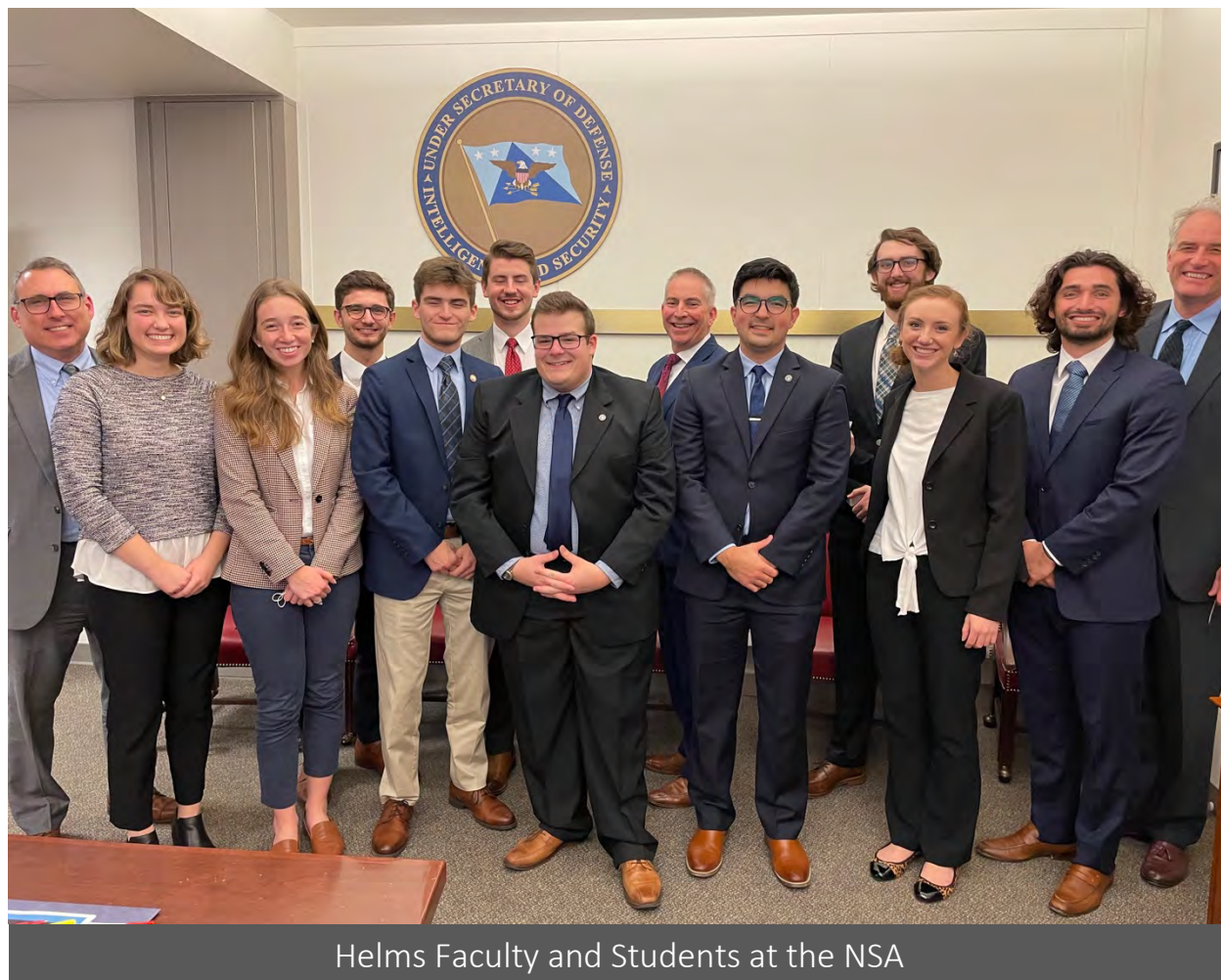


Helms Faculty and Students meeting with Ambassador Koshelev in the Russian Embassy

Dean of the Helms School of Government Robert Hurt, Professor Scott Roenicke, and his International Relations class visited the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to meet with Russian diplomats and discuss bilateral relations. This meeting preceded the Summit between Presidents Biden and Putin, which occurred in December. While at the embassy, the students had the opportunity to substantively engage the Deputy Chief of Mission, Sergey Koshelev, in an extended plenary session. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the students were provided refreshments similar to those at a diplomatic reception, and then given a tour of the embassy compound, including the “Great Hall” where senior-level diplomatic and press functions are held. We are honored that Liberty students had the opportunity to engage directly with a key U.S. strategic competitor on how to improve international relations at a pivotal moment in our nation’s history.

Read more on the [Russian Embassy](#) and on our [Instagram](#).

## Students Visit NSA and Pentagon



Helms Faculty and Students at the NSA

The Advanced Intelligence Analytics class provided detailed presentations to two sets of senior intelligence community panels in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security) at the Pentagon as well as at the National Security Agency's (NSA) Cyber Collaboration Center. The intelligence community panel at NSA was headed by former Deputy Director for National Intelligence, Mr. Neil Wiley, and included representatives from both NSA and the Defense Intelligence Agency. The briefings focused on the security implications to proliferation of low-cost unmanned aerial systems (drones).

The Liberty student briefing team presented a compelling analysis on the military, criminal, and national security implications and risks associated with the proliferation of these drone systems throughout the United States. Pentagon and NSA officials voiced their appreciation for the 'thought-provoking' analysis and expressed a desire to consider recommended policy approaches to the challenges presented. Both organizations offered to continue this working relationship with Liberty University in light of the quality analysis by the student analysts.

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

## Students Participate in Model European Union Simulation



Dr. Mary Prentice and her Politics of Europe class at the European Union Simulation

In November, Dr. Prentice and her Politics of Europe class participated in the Mid-Atlantic European Union simulation. During the 4-day simulation in Washington, D.C., students attended briefings at the Romanian and Latvian embassies to meet with diplomats engaged in U.S./European relations. The European Union Simulation is designed to encourage students to take part in the deliberative process, play the role of leaders of European countries, and practice the art of diplomacy regarding policy agendas. We are thankful for Dr. Prentice and this enriching experience for students to develop professional diplomatic skills.

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

# Mock Trial



Dr. Ben Rathsam and Mock Trial students

Liberty University's Helms School Mock Trial Teams competed at the Demon Deacon Mock Trial Invitational Tournament hosted by Wake Forest University. Each team presented a mock jury trial case involving prosecution for arson. The team placed 2nd overall; Dalton Davis received a top attorney award; and John Sharp received a top witness award. We are proud of all the great work the Mock Trial Teams are doing.

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

# HSOG Journals and SIFA Newsletter



The Helms School of Government [Undergraduate Law Review](#) is now live! Our newest journal strives to encourage the practice of legal thinking in the minds of undergraduate students wanting to pursue law. Each article aims to be objective and scholarly to ensure the highest quality of work. This journal seeks not to restate what has already been said but rather contribute to legal discourse while remaining faithful to the Christian worldview. Be sure to check out our first Volume.

Likewise, the Helms School of Government is excited to announce the release of [Volume 2, Issue 1 edition](#) of the Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy! Articles in this issue cover a variety of topics such as international relations, public health, and local history. The Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy aims to provide engaging analysis of issues in the realms of international and domestic policy, national security, and political philosophy from a thoughtful, ethical, and Christian perspective. The submission period for the next JSPP volume will open in early February then close on May 15, 2022.

The Helms School of Government is excited to share the newest research opportunity for students, the [Strategic Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Initiative](#). This initiative involves students from multiple backgrounds that monitor and research both domestic and international news for key strategic developments on a weekly basis to create newsletters and brief Helms School of Government faculty. The objectives of this research initiative are to cultivate an analytical team of students to quickly analyze the significance of these developments from a national security/U.S. Government standpoint. This provides key real-world experience that can serve as professional development opportunities for the students to aid in enhancing their ability to compete for intelligence and foreign policy jobs in Washington, D.C. and abroad.

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

## Public Policy Conference



The Helms School of Government and Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy is pleased to announce its second annual policy conference, A Nation Divided? Assessing Freedom and the Rule of Law in a post-2020 World, happening **March 24-26, 2022**. The cultural, social and political impacts of 2020 still linger and the mutually important goals of freedom and the rule of law continue to be redefined and threatened.

The conference is currently [accepting papers](#) through **January 17, 2022**. We invite all students, faculty, and alumni to submit a paper discussing ways to strengthen and balance the nation through the following topics: Legal & Regulatory Issues, Upholding Liberty and Justice, and Foreign Policy & International Relations.

Find more information on registration, paper submissions, and conference details on our [Conference Webpage](#).

## Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Metallo



Dr. Metallo, our most senior professor, has been part of the Helms School of Government for 17 years! He teaches courses in International Law, Political Economy & Public Policy, and American Foreign Policy. Dr. Metallo also oversees the local chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a National Political Science Honor Society. If you know Dr. Metallo, you know he is passionate about Latin America, cultures, and world history.

Read More on [Dr. Metallo](#).



## Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Ferdon



Meet Dr. Ferdon! She serves as a Professor of Government and has been teaching at LU for 14 years! Dr. Ferdon teaches courses at LU such as Constitutional Government and Free Enterprise, American Constitutional History, Constitutional Law, and State and Local Government.

Before coming to Liberty, she served as an adjunct professor for Regent University’s School of Education, the Robertson School of Government, and the College of General Studies. She also researched and wrote for the Foundation for American Christian Education in Chesapeake, VA, and currently serves FACE as a Board Member.

Fun Fact: Dr. Ferdon was part of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), having served in southern Africa, the former Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia. Before teaching, she contemplated a career as a professional fastpitch softball player, and still enjoys exercising while listening to lectures on America’s founding documents, law, and public policy.

Dr. Ferdon is an encouragement to many of the Helms faculty and students.

Read more on [Dr. Ferdon](#).

## Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Fischer



Meet Dr. Fischer! He has been teaching since 2011, and currently serves as the Chair of Government Programs. Dr. Fischer teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes such as American Government, Foundations of Statesmanship and Public Policy, and Leadership, Statesmanship, and Governance. He also recently became a Fellow at Ariel University in Israel.

A piece of advice students he offers to students is, “Sometimes we treat school as this checklist where we feel like we are always in control each semester. Once you graduate, life presents you a lot of the time with a roadmap that you can’t easily segment. You’ve got to trust the Lord and know that He is in control. Part of His work in your life is to expose things where you need to grow and trust. So don’t be afraid of that, rather embrace it.”

In his downtime (aside from making music), Dr. Fischer and his family enjoy skiing every year out West, tracking the best resort with the most snow. More importantly, he is slowly converting his yard into zoysia grass and highly recommends investing in grass plugs! If you see him around campus, be sure to say hello!

Read more on [Dr. Fischer](#).

# LIBERTY

U N I V E R S I T Y

HELMS SCHOOL *of*  
GOVERNMENT

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