Letter from the Director

It’s a real pleasure to send out this first alumni newsletter about the Kansas State University Security Studies program. Since the program began in 2006, it’s produced some 130 masters graduates and eight Ph.Ds. Our alums have gone to successful active-duty military careers, to work for federal or state governments, or to the private sector. Other grads have taken our MA on to Ph.D. work, and our Ph.D. graduates are teaching in civilian institutions, in Department of Defense professional schools, and in educational institutions abroad. We continue to be proud of our rich mix of military and civilian students, traditional and non-traditional, American and international.

University faculties are always changing, and we have recently welcomed two excellent additions to our program: Michael Flynn in political science and Andrew Orr in history. Their biographies are attached for those of you who graduated before having a chance to meet them. Our faculty continue to amass a record of high-quality scholarship and publication, as well as outreach to governmental audiences and the general public.

Responsibility for running the program lies with me as Director of the Institute for Military History and Andrew Long as Director of Security Studies. Despite our different titles, we serve as a two-headed monster to keep things running as smoothly as we can.

While we are pleased with what we’ve accomplished so far, we’re always looking for ways to improve our program. University budgets are under pressure across the United States, and there are real moral and practical limits to how much we can compensate for budget cuts by raising tuition, so we try to maximize the effectiveness of the resources we do have. We think our program does much better than competing programs in offering hands-on and dedicated mentoring of our students, but we know that we don’t have the geographic advantages of schools in New York or Washington, DC.

Because of that, we’d like to keep you, our graduates, involved in the program. Your connection to us comes with a lifetime warranty: we’ll always be happy to hear from you with what you’ve been doing, about professional opportunities you come across, and your suggestions for helping us do things better.

All best wishes,
Dave Stone
Pickett Professor of Military History
Introducing Professor Andrew Orr

Andrew Orr is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame’s history program and specializes in European military history and African history. His current research projects include a book on women and the French Army from 1914-1940 and a future project on French involvement in the Turkish War of Independence. Since coming to K-State in 2013, Professor Orr has taught a variety of classes in the Security Studies program, including methods classes and a class on World War I. He is especially excited to teach the program’s first regional course on Africa this semester.

Dr. Orr brings a variety of academic and professional experiences to the program. Since coming to K-State he has assisted the US Army’s Regionally Aligned Force Africa, based at Ft. Riley, in its pre-deployment training. Over the last fifteen years he has worked with governments and NGOs in Africa, especially Mali and the Central African Republic, to promote educational cooperation and democratization programs.

Professor Orr has published articles in the *Journal of Military History*, the *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*, and *Military Science*. His next article will appear in a special issue of *French Historical Studies* commemorating the centennial of World War I.

Introducing Assistant Professor Michael Flynn

Michael Flynn is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Kansas State University. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Binghamton University in 2013, and a B.A. in Politics and History from Potsdam College (SUNY) in 2006.

Michael’s research interests focus on the political and economic sources of state behavior in the areas of conflict, international security and repression. His work has been published in *International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Peace Research, Foreign Policy Analysis, Political Research Quarterly, and Conflict Management and Peace Science*. His current research focuses on issues concerning global integration in security and economic affairs, and the projection of military power. He is also researching the role of human rights organizations in affecting states’ foreign policy decisions.

His teaching interests include U.S. foreign policy, domestic politics and international relations, world politics, and international security.
**Orlandrew Danzell:** I’m an Assistant Professor at the Tom Ridge School of Intelligence Studies and Information Science at Mercyhurst University. Since graduating in 2011, I teach both graduate and undergraduate courses within the Department of Intelligence Studies. My research focuses on international/domestic terrorism, military interventions, and national security.

**COL Saad Alsubaie:** After getting my Ph.D degree I was promoted to Colonel and transferred to the newly established Saudi National Guard CGSC, which will offer Master’s degrees in strategic, security and military studies. Now we are developing our curriculum in partnership with the US Army CGSS at Fort Leavenworth.

**Matthew Harris:** Since graduating from the program, I have worked at the National Defense University’s Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Washington, D.C. as a research assistant helping to develop reports and exercises for government officials and military leaders. I then became a government contractor working for the National Institute for Public Policy (NIPP) and provided support to the Missile Defense Agency as a member of the Director’s Action Group. In addition, NIPP assigned me to be the assistant managing editor of *Comparative Strategy*, a leading international journal of global affairs and strategic studies, which I continue to do. I am now a senior analyst with E3 Federal Solutions, a federal government consulting firm, and provide support to the Department of Homeland Security.

I also have expanded my academic portfolio since graduating from the MA program. I presented two papers at International Studies Association (ISA) conferences – one at ISA’s Northeast Regional Conference (Fall 2010) and the other at the ISA’s Annual Convention (Spring 2011). I wrote two articles in 2014, which are scheduled for publication in late 2015. The titles are “Debating the Meaning of Nuclear Weapons: Comparing the Strategic Thinking of Bernard Brodie and Colin Gray” and “Deterring Chinese Ballistic Missile Threats to the U.S. Homeland.” In addition, I am finalizing an article comparing the American response to the Soviet Delta SSBN in the 1970s with today’s Chinese SSBN threat. I have also been contracted to do a book review on *Paper Tigers: China’s Nuclear Posture*, a recently published book by Jeffrey Lewis. In addition, I am in discussions on writing another book review during 2015.

**LTC Joel Vernetti:** I’m currently serving as a Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2) at Fort Meade, MD.

**LTC USARYM AWC Thomas R Powers (Tom):** It’s crazy how quickly time can slip by! Hard to imagine it's been four years since I graduated - and I can't tell you enough how much I enjoyed the program. Integrating Leavenworth’s classrooms with Manhattan’s and significantly expanding the depth of student experiences and knowledge was a huge benefit for all of us - and I'm glad to see it continues today.

I'm still in the Kansas Army National Guard and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2011. I'm currently attending the US Army War College in Carlisle, PA as a resident student (been here since July - will move back to KCMO in June). I am sure part of my success is a direct result of the time Drs. Stone and McCrea spent helping me hone my analytical and writing skills. My faculty advisor, Dr. Larry Goodson (Eisenhower Chair of National Security and professor of Middle East Studies) has consistently praised my writing and, for the most part, made relatively minor comments with suggested improvements. You probably don't realize how much you are responsible for that, but I do! I'm working on two research projects and will be competing in at least one of the writing competitions - who knows, maybe I'll get something published when I graduate. In any case - I am proud to have graduated from the program and am grateful for the many ways it has contributed to my success.

**Shon McCormick:** I’ve spent the last two years on the Army Staff at the Pentagon developing Army strategy and policy. I expect to continue with Washington postings for the next 1-2 years.
**LTC Mike Sullivan (Sully):** Since earning my Masters from the KSU Security Studies Program, I served with 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA for four years, including a year’s tour in Iraq. I then commanded a base in Germany: United States Army Garrison Baumholder for two years. I am now working on my PhD at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, with International Security Studies as one of my fields.

**LTC Nick Simontis** is currently in Kuwait working as a planner in CJTF-OIR (Operation Inherent Resolve).

**Jordan Herman (BJ):** I’m currently deployed to Afghanistan as the battalion commander for an Indirect Fire Protection Capability unit. We intercept incoming rockers and mortars, issue warnings to take cover prior to an indirect fire impact, and conduct airspace deconfliction.

**Robert Daniel (Danny) Wallace:** Some background on my own experience -- after completing all of my doctoral studies and defending my dissertation in December 2013, I finally (after seven years) graduated in May 2014 from Kansas State. For me, the KSU PhD served two purposes: it was a means to explore my own academic interests and a credential to provide an advantage during my transition to life after a career in the Army. I was unsure which direction life would take after the Army, but I knew that transition from military to civilian life was on the horizon. In July 2014, I retired after 26 years of active duty service with the US military. I considered either remaining with the US government or teaching and applied to as many positions as possible. In the end, I chose to remain with the US government and now work as an analyst for the Department of the Army. This choice allowed for a stable position and for us (my family) to remain overseas in Korea, which was our goal. I also found an adjunct teaching position with Columbia College (MO) and have taught American government for the past two years (which provides both intellectual challenge and a little vacation money [grin]). I’m also working on transitioning my dissertation on Korean conflict to a book and going through the "finding a publisher" process. I’ve been promised a contract in the next couple of weeks, but we'll see how that goes. I’m definitely not sure what the future holds for working (I’ll leave Korea in 3-5 years), but I do know that I’ll use my "KSU PhD skills" (solving complex problems/clearly communicating ideas) in any position that I hold. In my field of government service, PhDs are a huge advantage when it comes to competing for jobs. I’m certain that having a doctorate was a key factor in a smooth my transition to civilian life and a good post-Army job.

**Kevin Easter:** I am currently biding time in Afghanistan at the moment with a combat aviation brigade. Definitely a unique perspective as we balance ourselves and the missions to meet the Commander in Chief’s reduced manning levels.

**Kate Kidder:** I’m now a Research Associate at the Center for a New American Security, working on military personnel policy and AfPak issues.

**Mike Larkin:** What have I been up to... good question! :-) I transitioned from the military into the corporate sector in late 2012 and have spent the past two years consulting with Ernst & Young. I’m also going back to school (again) and have just completed the first year of New York University’s Executive MBA program at the Stern School of Business.

**LTC, AR D. Bradley Laauwe:** I’m currently at Ft. Hood as a member of the Army’s Operational Test Command; in the near future I’ll be at Ft. Benning, assuming command of a cavalry squadron.

**Anna Backer:** I’m currently VP of Marketing at Gusto, LLC. I’ve spent the last 5 years in the tech space field. Previously I was Chief of Staff at ChaCha, Inc. and President of NewsHeadquarters.com. I owns a digital marketing firm named Spearfish Search.
Rabia Akhtar:

Written jointly with Indian scholar Debak Das, Ph.D student Rabia Akhtar's book traces the South Asian experience with nuclear weapons from the 1980s through multiple crises between Indian and Pakistan. It looks specifically at how governments learn to deal with one another through crises as well as with the global regime of non-proliferation agreements.

Kristin Mulready-Stone

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, youth emerged as a new and important social force in many parts of the world. Mobilizing Shanghai Youth explores the similarities and differences among three youth organizations that were connected to Chinese political parties or governments in Shanghai: Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Japanese collaborationist regime of Wang Jingwei.

David Stone

David Stone's book on Russia's experience of the First World War is the first scholarly account of the military and operational history of the Eastern Front in forty years, and aims to make this important but little understood theater of the war accessible to Western readers.
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