We couldn’t do it without you

Submit an alumni update or donate to the department!
We would love to hear from you. To submit an alumni update please send an email to securstu@ksu.edu. Let us know how you’ve been, what you’ve published or where your education has taken you.

To support future generations of students, you can now donate online. We are setting up a dedicated Security Studies fund, but in the meantime donations can go through the History Department. To make a contribution, please visit our website at www.k-state.edu/history/alumni/donations.html. Click on Friends of History and follow the prompts to fill in details about your gift and your contact information at the KSU Foundation’s secure site. You may also send a check to the History Department, 208 Eisenhower Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan KS 66506, noting Friends of History / Security Studies in the memo. Thank you for considering a gift.

Make Yourself a Priority.
At the end of the day you Are your longest Commitment.
Greetings from Manhattan! It gives me great pleasure to share news of our activities with the friends and alumni of the Security Studies program. Faculty and students in Security Studies at Kansas State University continue to build upon the past success of the program.

First, congratulations to our Spring and Summer 2015 graduates! Security Studies has conferred degrees to twelve Master of Arts students in 2015 (see list below) and two doctoral students (Rabia Akhtar and Melia Pfannenstiel) successfully defended their dissertations. We know that success in our graduate program is a combination of the hard work done by our students and the excellent teaching and advising of faculty. Well done, everyone!

In faculty news, three individuals associated with Security Studies were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure last spring. Congratulations are due to Drs. Sam Bell and Sabri Ciftci of political science and Dr. Kristin Mulready-Stone of history for their outstanding efforts as teachers and scholars in their disciplines. Security Studies is proud to have them as a part of our program. In addition, Political Science and History are both in the middle of the hiring process to find new scholars that will become part of the Security Studies program next year. We look forward to introducing the newest members of our group to you in upcoming newsletters. Finally, the Security Studies program is experiencing a change in leadership. Dr. David Stone has stepped down as Director of the Institute for Military History in order to spend a year teaching at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Thank you, Dr. Stone, for your excellent contribution administering the Institute and the Security Studies program for the last six years. Dr. Kristin Mulready-Stone accepted the position of Interim Director for this year and we are pleased to have someone with her leadership ability heading the Institute for Military History. I am especially thankful to Dave and Kristin for being such wonderful people and great colleagues.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the Security Studies program was part of a successful proposal to relocate to Calvin Hall in January 2017. The partnership built between Political Science and History through Security Studies played a significant role in securing a new space that will further promote the collaboration of our departments, faculty, and students. Calvin Hall also has unique common spaces, and more space in general, which will bring those affiliated with Security Studies together for the type of structured interaction and informal networking that benefits everyone.

Dr. Andrew Long
Director of Security Studies
Rabia Abktar, PhD 2015, is the founding Director of the Centre for Security, Strategy, and Policy Research at the University of Lahore, Pakistan.

Kate Kidder, PhD student, has been named the 2015-2016 Bacevich Fellow at the Center for New American Security in Washington, DC.

Jacob Mauslein, PhD 2014, accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University and Associate Editor of the journal Political Research Quarterly (PRQ). PRQ is considered to be one of the leading journals in political science, typically being ranked among the top 10 most influential journals in the discipline. Jake recently published articles in the Journal of Politics and Applied Geography, which are top five journals in their respective disciplines. At Oklahoma State, he teaches Introduction to World Politics, War and World Politics, Proseminar in International Relations, and a number of other courses.

Anna R. Hurt, (Newman), MA 2013, accepted a full-time position as a disaster analyst working for the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. She does a lot of field interviews with organizations responding to natural disasters (such as the Nepal earthquake) and humanitarian crises (such as the Syria situation) and then takes that information and packages it into breakdowns for donors on how they can best leverage their philanthropic dollars in these situations. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience for her, as it allows her to manage grant funding to these situations.

Bruce Stanley, PhD 2012, associate professor at the School of Advanced Military Studies at Ft. Leavenworth, published book entitled Outsourcing Security: Military Contractors and US Foreign Policy with the University of Nebraska Press. Bruce teaches courses on Theory and Operational Art, the Strategic Context of Operational Art, Design and Operational Art, and Morality and War at the School.
How Security Studies impacts Careers

I think by far the most important thing the Security Studies program has taught me is how to use information. I don’t necessarily store all the facts, but when presented with new information, I know how to analyze it, combine it with other information, and use it to ask the right questions. This ability to use information well will be invaluable no matter what kind of job I hold in the future.

Alyssa Jackson

I want to mention some experiences at work where my time at KSU was helpful. I interacted with a U.S. civilian intel guy the other day - he was channeling a bunch of political science theory on state and individual behavior without referencing the theories and authors, but it was an easy match. I had the same experience listening to a few briefings on modern India about two weeks ago - a bunch of Mearsheimer without the citations.

Two days ago I was digging through my comp notes finding references on alliances and deterrence prior to talking to the Indian military coordination group. We are trying to get them to participate in more exercises with PACOM.

Finally, we conduct a large exercise with the Australian military every two years (Talisman Sabre) and last year we were unhappy with the command and control arrangements. I now have my folks doing some research on how MacArthur organized his HQ and then conducted Operation Cartwheel in the second half of 1943 for insight on how to fix the problems we found in 2015.

The point of all of this is the linkage and value between my time at KSU and my current job.

Bryan Mullins,
J37 Training & Exercises, PACOM

I was lucky enough to be selected in to the Security Studies program at Kansas State University and it was immediately beneficial to me. As a student the program is rigorous and challenging. As a military officer, the program enabled me to approach several subjects from the graduate and national perspective. In my current job as an instructor at the US Army Command and General Staff College the experience and network of faculty and students prepared me for many of the subjects I teach and mentor with new field grade officers. Since graduation I have also travelled to Afghanistan to mentor an Afghan unit as they increase their capacity to provide security to their nation. The Security Studies program is a tremendous experience that will benefit military professionals and practitioners in the national security field.

Jacob A. Mong
Over the summer I requested and was selected to stay back on 2ABCT's deployment to 'Operation Spartan Shield' (Kuwait/CENTCOM) so I could finish my Security Studies Masters this coming Spring 2016.

I am the 1-18 Infantry Battalion Rear-Detachment Commander, responsible for transitioning soldiers either to their next assignment in the Army or out of the Army and into civilian life. As part of my job I send soldiers who are new to Ft. Riley forward to CENTCOM (United States Central Command, responsible for U.S. security interests from the Arabian Gulf into Central Asia), receiving soldiers home from Kuwait, maintaining our equipment and weapons platforms, and above all looking after the families that the deployed soldiers leave behind. In addition, I passed the 2015 Captain's Board and will be promoted to Captain effective November 1st.

As far as the program is concerned, I may not use it in my day-to-day job just yet, but I am often reminded of the lessons I've learned at K-State since Fall 2013. These lessons are most relevant when I take a step back and look at the big picture and attempt to answer the "why" of my existence as a part of the United States military, specifically its everyday role in both combat and humanitarian capacities on a global scale.

Furthermore, the lessons I've learned served me greatly on my last deployment, which was to AFRICOM, specifically Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti and Camp Simba, Kenya. While assigned to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, extremists and terrorism typically in the form of al-Shabab were on the rise and threatening the local way of life. I feel like as a result of the Security Studies program I was able to better understand our role in being the first regionally-aligned brigade to Africa and the first combat units to deploy there since World War II.

JOHN T. WALCHONSKI
In a recent article, “Our Radical Islamic BFF, Saudi Arabia,” Thomas L. Friedman disagreed with the nearly 200 retired US generals and admirals who had “sent a letter to Congress urging lawmakers to reject the Iran nuclear deal.”

While his attempt to drag Saudi Arabia into the controversy surrounding the Iran nuclear deal was not unexpected, I was surprised by the simplistic basis of Friedman’s argument. In an effort to justify his support of the Iran nuclear deal, he basically argued that Iran is bad but Saudi Arabia is even worse. The implication of his argument is that if the US can be allies with Saudi Arabia, then surely it can befriend Iran and accept the nuclear agreement.

There are two main problems with this argument. First of all, it overlooks the longstanding friendly and strategic relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia. In May 2015, US President Barack Obama had remarked, “The United States and Saudi Arabia have an extraordinary friendship and relationship that dates back to President Franklin D. Roosevelt ... We are continuing to build that relationship during a very challenging time.”

President Obama also commented that cooperation between the two countries is critical “not only to maintaining stability in the region but also to protecting the American people.”

On his latest visit to the White House, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman highlighted the historical relationship between the two countries. He remarked, “Our relationship is beneficial not only to our two countries, but to the entire world and to our region ... we want to work together for world peace. Our region must achieve stability, which is essential for the prosperity of its people ... we want prosperity for the entire region. And we are willing to cooperate with you in order to achieve that.”

This long history of strategic cooperation between the two countries has been possible due to Saudi Arabia’s role as a regional stabilizer; it would not have been possible if Saudi Arabia were as radical as Friedman alleged.

Saudi Arabia is a strong advocate of not just regional stability, but also international peace and prosperity. The country is a founding member of the United Nations and other regional organizations. It works with international organizations to provide conflict mediation assistance and disaster relief to people in need regardless of nationality, ethnicity or religion. According to the 2015 Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, Saudi Arabia is the largest regional, and the sixth global donor, of humanitarian aid.

Friedman’s argument also ignores the history of tense relationships between Iran and the US, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East which are the direct consequence of Iran’s hostile foreign policies. Post revolution, the Iranian leadership cast Islam against the West and to declare the US to be a common enemy.
Following the 1979 seizure of the US Embassy in Tehran, Iran’s supreme leader, Ruhollah Khomeini called on the Islamic countries to join the fight, which he said "is a fight between Islam and blasphemy; between ourselves and America.” This hostile political-religious message continues to drive most of the radical revolutionary groups in the region.

Friedman began his career as a foreign correspondent in Lebanon during the 1979 upheaval and witnessed the Iranian-supported terrorism in Beirut in 1983. In what CNN described as the “deadliest attack against US Marines since the battle over Iwo Jima,” a Hezbollah suicide bomber killed 300 American and French servicemen. Friedman singled out this incident in his op-ed and overlooked a plethora of terrorist incidents supported by Iran, such as the Khobar Tower bombing in Alkhobar, Saudi Arabia, in 1997, which killed one Saudi and 19 American airmen and injured 386 people of various nationalities.

According to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the attack was “inspired, supported, and directed by elements of the Iranian government.”

In order to castigate Saudi Arabia, Friedman made some sweeping remarks that ignored the diversity of religious and political systems in more than 60 sovereign countries in the Islamic world. In one such ludicrous remark, he said Saudi Arabia is connected to terrorist organizations including Daesh, Al-Qaeda and the Al-Nusra Front. The fact is that none of these terror outfits is based in Saudi Arabia. Rather it is the only country to have completely defeated and expelled Al-Qaeda. Furthermore, Friedman failed to mention that these terrorists have attacked and threatened Saudi Arabia more than they have attacked or threatened Iran or the US.

In fact the rise of transnational terrorist organizations coupled with Iran’s nuclear activities pose a tremendous challenge to regional and global policymakers. According to James Clapper, the Director of National Intelligence of the US, “...It kind of boils down to, if you have a choice between having a state sponsor of terrorism who has a nuclear capability or a state sponsor of terrorism without a nuclear capability, I think I’d take the latter choice.”

Fighting transnational terrorism and preventing nuclear proliferation are essential for global security. Cooperation between the US and Saudi Arabia, a regional stabilizer, is crucial on both fronts. Along with its history of cooperation for world peace, Saudi Arabia supports the Iran nuclear agreement. According to Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, “We believe this agreement will contribute to security and stability in the region by preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear capability.”

While most Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, have a long way to go to achieve lasting peace, stability and common prosperity in the region, a nuclear Iran is clearly going in the opposite direction.
Faced with a decreasing supply of national troops, dwindling defense budgets, and the ever-rising demand for boots on the ground in global conflicts and humanitarian emergencies, decision makers are left with little choice but to legalize and legitimize the use of private military contractors (PMCs). Outsourcing Security examines the impact that bureaucratic controls and the increasing permissiveness of security environments have had on the U.S. military's growing use of PMCs during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Bruce E. Stanley examines the relationship between the rise of the private security industry and five potential explanatory variables tied to supply-and-demand theory in six historical cases, including Operation Desert Storm in 1991, the U.S. intervention in Bosnia in 1995, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Outsourcing Security is the only work that moves beyond a descriptive account of the rise of PMCs to lay out a precise theory explaining the phenomenon and providing a framework for those considering PMCs in future global interaction.

Why does North Korea routinely turn to provocation to achieve foreign policy goals? Are the actions of the volatile Kim regime predictable, based on logical responses to the conditions faced by North Korea? This book, an examination of the "Hermit Kingdom" over the past 50 years, explains why the Democratic People's Republic of Korea uses hostility and coercion as instruments of foreign policy. Using three case studies and quantitative analysis of more than 2,000 conflict events, the author explores the relationship between North Korea's societal conditions and its propensity for external conflict. These findings are considered in light of diversionary theory, the idea that leaders use external conflict to divert attention from domestic affairs. Analyzing the actions of an isolated state such as North Korea provides a template for conflict scholarship in general.

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