

THE **SCHAR SCHOOL** OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

Mason Now: Power the Possible. The Campaign for George Mason University.

THE DRIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

At the Schar School of Policy and Government, we use our research, creativity, and vision to improve lives, strengthen communities, and build a more secure, prosperous, and equitable world.

With our national reputation established, we remain a school of strivers. Our students are smart, hard-working, ambitious future leaders who know how to maximize opportunities. Our faculty are committed to translating theory into practice with real-world impact. Our graduates have the expertise to put policy into action.

We are united by our drive to make a difference.

Why the Schar School?

Growing distrust of government and institutions, especially among young people. Technological advances that improve our lives and threaten our existence—seemingly in equal measure. Increasingly fractious public discourse against a backdrop of changing demographics.

The Schar School addresses these challenges in an inclusive, multidisciplinary, nonpartisan environment to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world.



75%
of Schar School graduates
are employed in their
preferred field.

"Our student body looks like America. When I am in the classroom, I see the future of this nation."

Michael Fauntroy

Associate Professor; Founding Director of the Race, Politics, and Policy Center



FROM THE **DEAN**

I am excited to lead the Schar School of Policy and Government at this critically important time.

It is a time that calls for a new generation of leaders and policymakers who can restore Americans' collective confidence in our democratic norms—and in one another. It is a time that calls for students, faculty, and researchers with the talent and tenacity to address our most vexing political problems. It is a time that calls for all voices to be welcomed in shaping our best future. The Schar School is uniquely positioned to answer these calls.

Schar School students are humble, compassionate, hard-working, and ready to take advantage of opportunities that come their way. Schar School faculty continually push the boundaries of conventional wisdom to unlock fresh solutions to the complex issues of our times. And with our location in the Washington, D.C. area, the Schar School is literally in the ideal place at the right time to be a national leader in policy and government education and research.

We invite you to join us in meeting these times.

Mark J. Rozell

Dean, Schar School of Policy and Government

WE POWER

- | **The Undergraduate Experience**
- | **International Security**
- | **The Regional Economy**
- | **Emerging Technology Policy**
- | **Demographic Expertise**



WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS NEED TODAY TO **ENSURE SUCCESS** TOMORROW?

We focus on the undergraduate experience at the Schar School now.

Undergraduate Learning Communities provide students with an identity within the school, access to a diverse set of peers focused on similar interests, ample opportunities to build relationships with faculty, and the ability to engage in small-group sessions with leaders from across the nation. In short, students in learning communities benefit from strong relationships, abundant resources, and high expectations.

LIVING AND LEARNING

The Democracy Lab learning community embraces the idea that learning isn't limited to the classroom. In partnership with George Mason's Housing and Residence Life, students in the lab not only take classes together, they live together. Students explore the issues that have and will define democracy in the United States and around the world—an engagement that happens 24/7. The Democracy Lab expands students' sense of the possible, setting them up for success during their time on campus and post-graduation.

"At the end of the day, building community and investing in relationships are the essential elements that make the fabric of a democracy."

Jennifer Victor

Associate Professor; Director of the Democracy Lab



The Schar School's Democracy Lab Learning Community Students on Capitol Hill



A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The International Relations Policy Task Force (IRTF) is a year-long program in which students complete sophisticated research projects. Under the close supervision of the faculty director, students explore, learn, and overcome obstacles together. To facilitate their research, they engage with experts and policymakers, both in the D.C. region and beyond.

The specialized focus includes case studies drawn from current international conflicts, with optional spring study abroad programs. For example, students have explored the challenges and opportunities of trade, trafficking, and immigration while immersing themselves in the unique culture of the border cities of El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

"IRTF has given me an in-depth perspective of what it looks like to be a social scientist. I had the opportunity to engage with real-life case studies, current international conflicts, and peers who share the same passions as mine. I'm confident I can apply all the tools that I have learned towards my research goals and later professional life."

Rubbiya Azhar

International Relations Policy Task Force '23

HOW CAN WE **STRENGTHEN** ALLIANCES AMONG ALLIES AND **UNDERSTANDING** AMONG ADVERSARIES?

We focus on international security at the Schar School.

In this century, our security depends on more than military might and the balance of power. Climate change, pandemics, disinformation campaigns, food insecurity—these factors and more will confront future generations of intelligence experts. Investments in educating future leaders today will yield greater global stability tomorrow.



INNOVATING THE CURRICULUM

The BA in International Security and Law, a first-of-its-kind program launched in 2023, prepares graduates to be leaders when it matters most: in the face of crisis. Course content combines national and international security and law to help students understand how to most effectively respond to a wide range of threats—from weather disasters to cyber attacks to nuclear proliferation and more. Available through online and in-person formats, the program answers the call to expand and diversify our diplomatic and national security workforce.

A NEW INSTITUTE FOR A CRITICAL REGION

Few regions are of more interest to U.S. political, policy, business, and nonprofit leaders than the Indo-Pacific, with 60 percent of the world's population, 40 percent of global gross domestic product, 30 percent of trade, and 35 percent of foreign direct investment. Unfortunately, some of the world's most intractable security challenges are also found in the region, driven by the U.S./Chinese competition, the status of Taiwan, and access to the South China Sea.

The Schar School is ideally positioned to produce research and to prepare students to work in this crucial part of the world. **The Schar Indo-Pacific Security Institute** will build on George Mason's status as a rising star in international security studies. The Institute will design national security simulations and war games, send teams of students and military officers to the Indo-Pacific to assess future conflict scenarios, and collaborate with a leading national security think tank to produce high-impact policy recommendations and conduct multi-year studies on the consequences of U.S.-China economic competition and decoupling.





STIMULATING DIALOGUE

The Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security explores the vital role that intelligence plays at a time of seemingly constant threats to our global security. Established by General (USAF-Retired) Michael V. Hayden, the only person to serve as both director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, the center presents 10–15 public events annually with panels of experts from the intelligence, security, and legal communities.

The events, each of which attracts over 500 people, cover issues ranging from the essential role that espionage plays in providing stability abroad to the challenges of intelligence oversight in an age of increasing calls for government transparency. Many of the audience members are themselves either national security experts, opinion leaders, or journalists whose reputations and credentials match those of the experts on stage. The center exemplifies the Schar School's recognized role as a national leader in training the next generation of policymakers and advancing the public dialogue around issues of critical national importance.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

Schar School faculty include some of the most prominent names in the field of intelligence and national security.



Michael Hayden

Former CIA and National Security Agency Director



Ellen Laipson

Former Vice Chair of the National Intelligence Council



James Danoy

Former Daily Intelligence Briefer to President Obama



Andrew McCabe

Former Deputy Director of the FBI



HOW DO WE **BUILD** **AN ECONOMY** THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE?

We focus on the regional economy at the Schar School.

The impact of remote work on downtown areas. The need for private investment to help solve public problems. Meeting workforce needs, lessening income disparities, and developing alternative energy infrastructures. We collaborate across industries to address these issues today and educate students to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

The Center for Regional Analysis (CRA) tracks and interprets cutting-edge regional economic data and provides policy recommendations to address current and future challenges. CRA is the Washington, D.C. area's go-to source for data on wages and employment; consumer spending and confidence; building permits and manufacturing output; and travel patterns. The data provide a launching point for the center to promote economic growth and competitiveness across the region. Policymakers, business leaders, journalists, and academics rely on CRA's analyses to understand the challenges facing the region and to imagine what the future could look like. CRA also strategizes with broad coalitions on how to realize collective ambitions for the region in the coming decades.





DRIVING INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

The Center for Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Policy unites policymakers, industry leaders, and global researchers to explore innovative approaches to delivering new and renewed infrastructure facilities. Public-private partnerships (P3s or PPPs) can supplement and leverage public funding and deliver significant improvements and public benefits through efficiency, innovation, and access to private capital markets. The center's research, education programs, and outreach support objective considerations of P3s and other alternative approaches to infrastructure delivery.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

The Schar School values learning cohorts because the students in these programs push and inspire one another while they are in school, and then, become lifelong thought-partners and collaborators. The 300 regional leaders who have earned MPA degrees as part of the **Northern Virginia Public Service Fellows** program can testify to the power of learning as part of a team. As much as Schar School faculty mentor and impact our students, we also need to get out of the way and allow them to learn from one another. Sometimes being a facilitator is more than enough!

"The bonds that students forge during our program last their entire careers. They support, encourage, and challenge each other to get better while in our classroom, and then they have a regional network supporting them years after graduation. I tell them they are only an email or call away from someone facing the same issue in another jurisdiction, and to use that resource to make the DMV a great place to live for all of us."

Jim Burroughs

Associate Professor; Director of the Northern Virginia Public Service Fellows Program

HOW CAN **POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY** BENEFIT EACH OTHER?

We focus on emerging technology policy at the Schar School.

Technology has already changed so much of our public and private lives: how we work, interact with each other, and perform many of our everyday tasks. This impact will only increase as new technologies emerge. We have a responsibility to teach future leaders how to respond to these disruptions—effectively and ethically.



AI AND SECURITY

Professor J.P. Singh and a team of researchers from across George Mason were awarded a three-year, \$1.39 million grant from the Department of Defense's esteemed **Minerva Research Initiative**, a joint program of the Office of Basic Research and the Office of Policy that supports research on expanding basic understanding of security and artificial intelligence.

Working with George Mason computer scientists, philosophers, and national security experts, the team is mapping the cultural context in which AI is used around the world. This predictive information will enable military strategists to better understand emerging technologies and their interactions with modern warfare. By understanding what an ally or adversary will and will not do with a particular technology, national security practitioners can develop strategies to respond to future crises.

"Rather than resign ourselves to the ominous scenarios about technology published every day in media reports, our research identifies policy spaces where smart regulatory and policy interventions can make a positive difference. We believe this is important in educating both the policymakers and the workforce of tomorrow."

J.P. Singh

Distinguished University Professor; Co-Director, Center for Advancing Human-Machine Partnership





TOMORROW'S DEGREES **TODAY**

In fall 2023, the Schar School and George Mason's School of Computing launched the **BS in Applied Computer Science, Technology Policy Concentration**, an innovative degree at the intersection of technology and policy. The curriculum explores the possibilities and challenges inherent in new technologies and the ways public institutions can seek to regulate these technologies to maximize their benefits. Graduates will have all of the knowledge and skills of a traditional computer science major, as well as an understanding of the regulatory landscape, policy implications, and ethical decisions that govern their profession. The program will be offered at **Fuse at Mason Square**, George Mason's newest building and the centerpiece of the Arlington campus.

A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark sweater over a white collared shirt, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He is positioned in front of a large world map. The map is slightly out of focus, showing continents and oceans. The text 'HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF SHIFTING POPULATIONS?' is overlaid on the left side of the image. The words 'UNDERSTAND THE' and 'IMPACT' are highlighted in yellow boxes. The background is a dark, muted color, possibly a wall or a large screen displaying the map.

HOW CAN WE **UNDERSTAND THE** **IMPACT** OF SHIFTING POPULATIONS?

We focus on demographic expertise at the Schar School.

Decades-long declines in birth rates. Aging populations that require publicly funded social services. Forced migrations due to natural disasters and armed conflicts. Navigating changing demographics and understanding the impact of those changes on effective decision-making is an emerging—and critical—21st-century issue.

TACKLING THE BIG QUESTIONS

Why do we have the world that we have? How did we get here?

What are the origins of human cultures?

Hazel Professor of Policy Professor Jack Goldstone approaches these questions through the perspective of population change. Ever since the 2010 publication of his provocative article "The New Population Bomb: The Four Megatrends That Will Change the World" in *Foreign Affairs*, Goldstone has been a leading authority on the impact that overpopulation and changing demographics have—and will have—on society. Goldstone's research, which examines current global trends and long-term changes, provides policymakers with data-based findings to inform decision-making in areas ranging from immigration and economic development to political stability and international terrorism.

"We're not that different. All human beings want the same things ... they want to see their families do well. As long as we focus on the things we have in common and that bring us together, I have hope."

Jack Goldstone

Virginia E. and John T. Hazel, Jr. Professor of Public Policy;

Director, Center for the Study of Social Change, Institutions, and Policy





MINDING THE GAP

The Gender and Policy (GAP) Center addresses the underrepresentation of women in positions of influence and power in the public sphere and identifies policy inequities for women and other underrepresented groups by preparing the next generation of leaders in policy-making, politics, and the private sector.

By combining teaching, experiential learning, and scholarship about today's most challenging gender and policy issues, the GAP Center prepares Schar School students to become empathetic, problem-solving leaders. Tackling topics in three primary areas—politics and public authority, women's health and wellbeing, and gender-based violence—GAP Center faculty and students collaborate as researchers and benefit from the expertise of an advisory board of professionals from the public and private sectors.

GAP was selected by the Center for American Women and Politics as Virginia's sole NEW Leadership® National Network Partner.

"The support of the Gender and Policy Center ... solidified in my mind the importance of my research on black women, leadership, and state legislatures. My research agenda will always be an uphill battle, but with the support of the GAP Center, I know it is necessary and valid work."

Jatia Wrighten

Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University; Schar School PhD American Politics '20

HOW WILL WE POWER THE POSSIBLE?

With your support.

The Schar School, founded in 2014, already serves more than 1,700 students. Our rapid growth and rise in national reputation is a testament to our willingness to be different and make a difference. We cut across traditional academic disciplines to develop the best solutions to complex problems. Opportunity and transformation are hallmarks of how we teach, the research we conduct, and the students we serve, many of whom are the first in their families to go to college.

Throughout, we have always been of, for, and about the communities and people we serve.

Join us. Because together, anything is possible.



MASON NOW

POWER THE POSSIBLE



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AND GOVERNMENT**
George Mason University®



schar.gmu.edu

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