



Nuclear Scholars Initiative

PROJECT ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

Class of 2011

Laura Berzak is an American Physical Society/American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Fellow on the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade under the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs. Laura completed her doctoral degree in Plasma Physics at Princeton University in August 2010 and received her undergraduate degree in 2004 from Dartmouth College, graduating summa cum laude with a double major in Physics and Chemistry. During her graduate studies, Laura was a National Nuclear Security Administration Stewardship Science Graduate Fellow at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, a Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratory. Her dissertation focused on a new fusion energy-relevant experimental reactor and the development of a novel series of diagnostics and analysis codes.

Alexis Blanc is a Program Analyst with the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and is member of the NNSA Future Leaders Program, class of 2010. As part of the Administrator's Office of Policy, Planning and Analysis, her current work is to assist with the development of guidance for implementing the President's nuclear security agenda. Previously, she worked at the Department of Defense, assisting with the development of the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) and other policy documents in support of New START. In particular, she worked with the NPR Stockpile and Infrastructure Working Group, analyzing the state of the stockpile and its supporting infrastructure. A 2009 graduate of the NNSA Nonproliferation Fellowship Program, Alexis also holds a B.A. in Political Science from Washington State University and a M.A. in Security Policy Studies from The George Washington University.

Michael Clauser served as the National Security Legislative Assistant to U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry (R-TX), a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the 111th Congress. In 2010 he was identified as a "Next Generation National Security Leader" by the Center for a New American Security. Prior to working on the Hill, Mr. Clauser served in the Presidential Administration of George W. Bush in the Pentagon. He began his national security career in Washington, D.C. as a Research Associate for a top national security advisory firm. He holds masters' degrees from the University of Exeter in England and the Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Poznaniu in Poland and is a graduate candidate at the U.S. Naval War College. He completed his undergraduate work in both philosophy and religious studies at Penn State. He is a proud Eagle Scout and native of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Thomas Devine is a Policy Analyst with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) supporting the Air Force Strategic Plans and Policy Division (AF/A5XP), International Treaties and Agreements Branch, in its mission as the Air Force lead on arms control. He has served in this position for two years. During this time, he was heavily involved with A5XP's support to the New START Treaty negotiations and is currently a member of a study team examining the qualitative characteristics of nuclear weapons at lower numbers. Mr. Devine graduated Magna Cum Laude from Saint Louis University with a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies, and holds a M.A. in International Security Studies from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He has studied abroad in Madrid and Brussels and has interned at the European Parliament and at NORAD/United States Northern Command.

Shaheen Dewji is a Ph.D. candidate in the Nuclear & Radiological Engineering Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, having studied at both the Atlanta, GA and Metz, France campuses. She received her B.Sc. in Physics from the University of British Columbia in 2006 and has participated in the Education Abroad Program at UC-Berkeley. She has completed a Masters in Nuclear Engineering in 2009 at Georgia Tech in assaying internal contamination using handheld radiation detectors in the event of a radiological dispersion device for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. From 2008-2009, Dewji was a Pre-Doctoral Fellow of the Sam Nunn Security Program at Georgia Tech and has been pursuing her interests in safeguards applications and nuclear security policy. She is currently interning at Oak Ridge National Laboratory through the NESLS/NGSI program, collaborating on safeguards research on integrated simulation and radiation detection methods for natural uranium conversion facilities.

Justin Fernandez is a member of the technical staff in the Stockpile Resource Center working on Integrated Stockpile Evaluation at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Justin's group works on ensuring compatibility of DOE weapons with Air Force platforms through an array of testing and analysis to ensure reliability with a high degree of confidence. This work requires considerable collaboration with branches of the DoD and DOE for successful testing. Justin earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers University and the Georgia Institute of Technology respectively. While in school, Justin specialized in computational modeling of turbulent flows and optimizing combustion systems for high efficiency.

Joel Forrester is a Research Scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory whose work focuses on monitoring technologies for nuclear test-ban verification and preventing nuclear smuggling. His career in nuclear nonproliferation began when he joined the technical team developing noble gas processing and quantification systems in support of the CTBTO's International Monitoring System. Forrester has helped manage PNNL's noble gas (xenon) system development portfolio, has been recognized for his leadership in border interdiction programs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and was recently invited to contribute to the draft Concept of Operations plan for the CTBTO's on-site inspection regime. A particular interest lies in bridging the gap between scientists and policy makers. Forrester has a B.S. in chemistry and is currently completing a M.S. in chemistry at Idaho State University.

Rebecca Gibbons is a second year Government Ph.D. student at Georgetown University with a concentration in international relations. Her current research interests include the normative agendas of great powers, US-China relations, nuclear proliferation and arms control. Before beginning her Ph.D. Rebecca worked full-time as contractor support for the Air Force's International Treaties and Agreements Branch where she focused on nuclear-related treaties. She currently maintains this position on a part-time basis. Rebecca received her MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University and her BA in Psychological and Brain Sciences from Dartmouth College. After graduation from college she spent a year teaching elementary school in a community of displaced Bikinians on the island of Kili in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Matthew Hallex is currently a MA candidate in the Security Policy Studies program at the George Washington University where he specializes in Asian regional security and weapons of mass destruction. He has worked and interned at a number of organizations including the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, the Project 2049 Institute, the Hudson Institute, the Asia Society and the EastWest Institute. Matthew received his BA in Political Science from Hunter College, City University of New York and also studied at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

Matthew Harries is a PhD student in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. He holds a First Class degree in Modern History and Politics from the University of Oxford. His doctoral research, on the role of Article VI in debates about the Non-Proliferation Treaty, is funded by a UK Economic and Social Research Council project-linked studentship, forming one strand of Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman's Global Uncertainties fellowship entitled 'Strategic Scripts for the 21st Century'. Matthew has previously worked as a Research Assistant and Project Coordinator at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), and continues to work as a consultant for the International Centre for Security Analysis (ICSA) at King's. He is also an Associate of the Centre for Science and Security Studies.

Patrick Lynch is a technical staff member at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) working in the Global Nuclear Security Technology Division. He supports both the International Collaboration and the Safeguards Concepts and Approaches teams within the International Safeguards Group. Previously, Patrick worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for over three years in both the Safeguards Department and the Nuclear Energy Department, where he supported projects focusing on nuclear infrastructure development, human capital growth, and nuclear power plant life management. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from John Carroll University and a Master's of Science degree in Applied Intelligence from Mercyhurst College Institute for Intelligence Studies. Patrick is also a Ph.D. candidate in the International Relations program at the University of Tennessee. He most recently completed the World Nuclear University (WNU) Summer Institute 2010, held at Oxford University.

Vincent Manzo is a Research Associate at the National Defense University's Center for Strategic Research. His research portfolio includes U.S. nuclear weapons policy, extended deterrence, missile defense, Conventional Prompt Global Strike, and strategic stability with Russia and China. He recently published a research memo on the debate surrounding the New START Treaty, and he is a co-author of a forthcoming analysis of the Conventional Prompt Global Strike program. He holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in Political Science from Kenyon College. Prior to graduate school, Vince worked as a legal assistant at Motley Rice LLC for two years.

Marie McLetchie is a Presidential Management Fellow with Headquarters Air Force A10, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration. As part of the PMF program, Ms. McLetchie has worked for the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters and is currently working for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense. Her professional interests include strategic force structure, arms control (New START in particular) and stockpile modernization. Ms. McLetchie received her Bachelor's (2008) and Master's (2009) degrees from the University of Chicago, where she focused on international relations theory and grand strategy.

Kevin Mueller received his B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue University in 2007, and his Master's in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue in 2009. He currently provides on-site project management support to the Nuclear Detection Technologies division in the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) as a contractor with Advanced Concepts and Technologies International (ACT-I). He is also leveraging DTRA educational opportunities through Defense Acquisition University and the Defense Nuclear Weapons School to enhance his technical and leadership skills. His diverse background includes undergraduate research in thermonuclear fusion, graduate research in neutron transport and computational fluid dynamics (CFD), and a growing expertise in radiation detection.

Sarah Poe is currently pursuing a Master's degree in nuclear nonproliferation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. There she focused on issues relating to START Treaty negotiations, verification, nuclear energy and safeguards. While at Monterey, Sarah worked as a graduate research assistant at the Office of International Organizations in Nonproliferation - part of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Sarah will graduate in May 2011 and hopes to pursue a career in nuclear nonproliferation policy in Washington, DC. Last summer, Sarah interned at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researching safeguards related issues as part of the Department of Energy's Next Generation Safeguards Initiative. Afterwards, she spent several months interning at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. In May 2008, Sarah graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with degrees in both International Politics and Economics and Russian Language. Sarah speaks fluent Russian and is from Louisville, Kentucky.

Caroline Reilly is a current Ph.D. student at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She received her undergraduate degree in aerospace engineering from MIT in 2006 and subsequently completed a master's degree from the War Studies Department at King's College London, where her thesis focused on the technical consequences of space warfare in the geosynchronous region. Following an internship with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, where she helped to produce a dossier on nuclear black markets, Caroline was a research assistant with the RAND Corporation, involved mostly with strategic force planning issues, and more specifically nuclear force posture challenges in arms control agreements. She will work with Professor Chris Chyba to pursue similar issues in further depth during her doctoral studies at Princeton. Caroline is also a member of PONI's Next Generation Working Group.

Grant Schneider is currently an MA candidate in International Affairs at George Washington University focusing on security and nuclear weapons issues. He works as an assistant to Douglas B. Shaw, Associate Dean of The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. This summer, Grant participated in the Next Generation Safeguards and Security program at Brookhaven National Laboratory. In 2010, Grant presented at PONI's fall conference in Aldermaston, UK and was invited to give his presentation, "Tactical Nuclear Weapons and NATO's Strategic Concept Review" at PONI's Capstone conference at STRATCOM. Grant received his bachelor's degree in International Politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Alejandro Sueldo is a J.D. candidate and Dean's Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall). Alejandro has experience in foreign policy and international security affairs, and has held policy positions and foreign assignments with an emphasis on U.S. relations with Europe, NATO, Russia, and Central Asia. He also contributed to the activities of the Argentine Government's chairmanship of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and has supported democratization efforts in South America. Alejandro received a Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, has completed graduate studies at Saint-Petersburg State University (Russia), and holds a B.A. from the University of Southern California. Alejandro was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar in Russia, an ATHGO International Scholar, and is a recipient of the Yee Fellowship for public service.

Rachel Whitlark is a fourth year PhD candidate in the Political Science Department at The George Washington University. Her research interests fall within International Relations and International Security, and she is especially concerned with topics that lie at the intersection of theoretical importance and policy relevance. In particular, her recent work focuses on weapons proliferation and the threat from terrorist groups and rogue states. Her dissertation project looks at the conditions under which a state considers and will use preventive military force as a counter-proliferation strategy against nuclear weapons programs. She holds a Master's degree from Stanford University and a bachelor's also from George Washington. Prior to beginning her PhD, Rachel worked in a variety of capacities in the Los Angeles office of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Rachel is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is a life-long Philadelphia Eagles fan.

John Yi is an MA candidate at Georgetown University at the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and Eastern European Studies, where I have focused primarily on Russian foreign policy in East Asia, specifically the Six Party Talks. Mr. Yi is also an intern at the U.S. Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission). As an undergraduate, he concentrated in Political Science and Russian at the University of Michigan. After graduating in 2007, he spent two years lobbying for the national Tourette Syndrome Association in Washington, DC, and then spent the summer of 2009 in South Korea working for a member of Parliament.