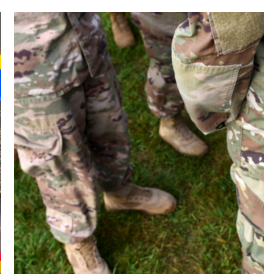
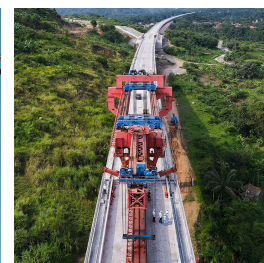


The Intersection of Agriculture and Competitive Statecraft

July 31 - August 1, 2024 | Washington D.C.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™



Arizona State University
Competitive Statecraft Initiative



WELCOME NOTE

Attendees, guests, and colleagues—welcome!

On behalf of Mississippi State University and Arizona State University, thank you for joining us to discuss “The Intersection of Agriculture and Competitive Statecraft.”

As global tensions rise, food supplies are increasingly being leveraged as tools of strategic competition and, at times, as weapons of war. Over the next two days, this conference will explore how agricultural policy can be used as an instrument of national power, integrated and synchronized with other strategies to protect national interests and promote core values.

We are honored to have Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS, Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services) inaugurate the event, and we are excited to feature keynote addresses from best-selling author Robert Kaplan and Brigadier General (retired) Russell D. Howard.

We would like to thank our distinguished speakers, panelists, and all attendees for supporting such an important event.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™



ABOUT THE SPONSORS



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

Mississippi State University is taking care of what matters by transforming and empowering communities throughout the world. The National Science Foundation ranks MSU in the nation's top 5% for agriculture and natural resources – a position it has held for over two decades.

Home to the nation's first institute dedicated solely to agricultural autonomy, MSU performs interdisciplinary research, development, testing and evaluation of multi-domain autonomous vehicle systems in the areas of agricultural production, processing, and research.

As a leader in cutting-edge research aimed at advancing the nation's military, MSU is supporting the Department of Defense's mission by developing a high-performance computing-based environment for next-generation ground vehicles.



Competitive Statecraft Initiative

Arizona State University, recognized as the No. 1 university for innovation by U.S. News & World Report for nine consecutive years, is a world-renowned public research institution of tremendous societal impact. ASU has developed a new model for the American research university, creating an institution committed to excellence, access and impact – the New American University.

Arizona State University's Competitive Statecraft Initiative harnesses expertise from across the government, academia, business, and civil society to develop, advocate for, and educate toward innovative, whole-of-society concepts, policies, strategies, and structures to protect American interests and promote universal values.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, July 31

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:00 am - 9:30 am | Welcome Remarks
<i><u>Introduction:</u> David Shaw</i>
<i><u>Speaker:</u> Senator Roger Wicker</i> |
| 9:30 am - 10:15 am | What is Competitive Statecraft?
<i><u>Introduction:</u> Nancy Blacker</i>
<i><u>Speaker:</u> Ryan Shaw</i> |
| 10:15 am - 10:30 am | Break |
| 10:30 am - 11:15 am | Why is Agriculture Part of the Discussion?
<i><u>Introduction:</u> Dan Reynolds</i>
<i><u>Speaker:</u> Dan Gustafson</i> |
| 11:15 am - 12:15 pm | Keynote Address: Geopolitics and the Natural Environment
<i><u>Introduction:</u> William Anthony Hay</i>
<i><u>Speaker:</u> Robert D. Kaplan</i> |
| 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm | Lunch |

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, July 31

- 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm** **Panel: A Case Study of the China Belt and Road Initiative**
Moderator: Darrin Dodds
Panelists: Mark Purdy, Russell Howard, and Dean Cheng
- 2:45 pm - 3:00 pm** **Break**
- 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm** **Panel: The Role of Technology to Further Agricultural Competitive Statecraft**
Co-Moderators: Robert Sharp and Narcisa Pricope
Panelists: K.C. Kroll, Kim Murphy, Mike Bennett, Chris Ogier, and Kate van Dam
- 4:15 pm - 5:00 pm** **Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS)**
Introduction: Julie Sims
Speaker: David Johnson
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm** **Reception and Happy Hour**

Thursday, August 1

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am** **Keynote Address: Water: Threat to Stability**
Introduction: Ashli Brown
Speaker: Russell Howard
- 10:00 am - 10:45 am** **Panel: Forging Agricultural and Food Linkages Between Countries**
Moderator: Keith Coble
Panelists: Joe Glauber, Seth Meyer, and Jeremy Stump
- 10:45 am - 11:00 am** **Break**
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm** **Panel: Target Countries' Needs: Our Responses vs. the Adversaries**
Moderator: Mick Crnkovich
Panelists: Alicia Ellis, Michael Ryan, Ben Ruddell, Narcisa Pricope, and Joel Starr
- 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm** **Closing Remarks**
Speakers: Keith Coble and Ryan Shaw

Day 1 | July 31, 2024

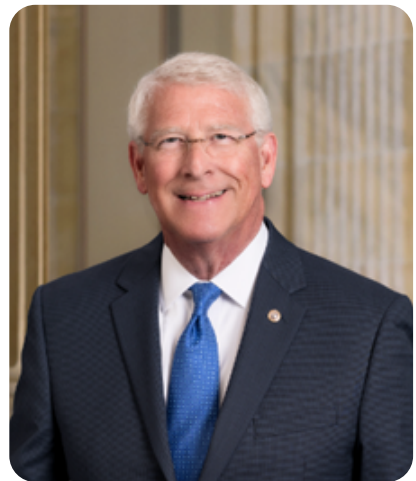
9:00 am - 9:30 am

Welcome Remarks

Introduction: David Shaw, Executive Vice President and Provost, Mississippi State University

Senator Roger Wicker Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee

Roger F. Wicker has represented Mississippi in the U.S. Senate since December 2007. He is the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee for the 118th Congress and a senior member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. His other committee assignments include the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Rules and Administration Committee.



Wicker is the ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Vice President of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. He also serves on the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Congressional Board of Visitors. He authored the "SHIPS Act," establishing the policy for a 355-ship Navy fleet, signed into law by President Trump. Wicker has been recognized for his pro-growth and pro-manufacturing policies by the National Association of Manufacturers.

An advocate for health initiatives, Wicker has supported cancer survivorship programs, heart disease, diabetes, childhood obesity, and Alzheimer's. He co-founded the Senate Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease Caucus and co-chairs the Rare Disease Caucus. He authored the MD CARE Act of 2001, enhancing muscular dystrophy research.

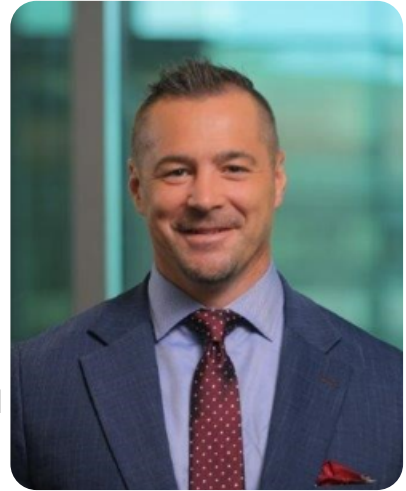
Before the Senate, Wicker represented Mississippi's First Congressional District in the House and served in the state Senate. He served in the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2004.

What is Competitive Statecraft?

Introduction: Nancy Blacker, National Defense University

Ryan Shaw, Managing Director of Strategic Initiatives and Senior Advisor to Arizona State University President Michael Crow

At Arizona State University, Ryan Shaw's work focuses on organizational strategy and leadership, as well as enhancing the university's contribution to national defense by spearheading projects such as the Competitive Statecraft Initiative at ASU, and Security & Defence PLuS, which combines ASU's defense-focused programs with those of King's College London and the University of New South Wales in Sydney.



Prior to joining ASU, Shaw served as an officer in the US Army. He earned his commission from West Point, majoring in American Politics. After commanding a cavalry troop in Iraq, he earned an MA in History from Yale University and returned to West Point as an Assistant Professor of American History.

As an Army Strategist, Shaw led strategic planning and provided strategic advice to top leaders in U.S. and multi-national military organizations. Key assignments included Strategic Advisor to the Commander of NORAD & U.S. Northern Command, Director of Plans and Assessments for the US Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authorities, and Special Advisor to the 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A graduate of strategic education programs at Yale University and the US Army War College, Shaw is a doctoral candidate at Yale and has published in the fields of grand strategy, strategic theory, and western & frontier history. He is an International Security Fellow at New America and an Expert-in-Residence for the University Design Institute.

Day 1 | July 31, 2024

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Why is Agriculture Part of the Discussion?

Introduction: Dan Reynolds, Associate Vice President, International Programs and Executive Director, International Institute, Mississippi State University

Dan Gustafson, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Daniel Gustafson serves as the Special Representative of the Director-General at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). From 2012 until his retirement in 2020, he served as Deputy Director-General of the Organization. Gustafson has over 40 years of international experience working on approaches linking science and policy for food and nutrition security, sustainable agricultural transformation and capacity development.



Gustafson joined FAO in 1994, in Mozambique, and subsequently served as FAO Representative in Kenya and Somalia, India and Bhutan, and as head of FAO's Washington D.C. office, before moving to FAO's headquarters in Rome. Gustafson also worked in Brazil for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and served as Program Manager of the International Development Management Center at the University of Maryland.

Gustafson holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension from the University of Maryland, a Master of Sciences in Agricultural Economics, and a Bachelor of Science in Economics and International Relations from the University of Wisconsin. In 2015, he was conferred a Ph.D. Honoris Causa by the Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) in India.

Day 1 | July 31, 2024
11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Keynote Address: *Geopolitics and the Natural Environment*

Introduction: William Anthony Hay, Associate Director for Public Programs and Professor in the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University

Robert D. Kaplan, best-selling author

Robert D. Kaplan is the bestselling author of 22 books on foreign affairs and travel translated into many languages, including *The Loom of Time*, *The Tragic Mind*, *Adriatic*, *The Good American*, *The Coming Anarchy*, *Balkan Ghosts*, *Asia's Cauldron*, and *The Revenge of Geography*. He holds the Robert Strausz-Hupé Chair in Geopolitics at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. For three decades Kaplan reported on foreign affairs for *The Atlantic*.



Kaplan has served as a senior adviser at Eurasia Group, chief geopolitical analyst at Stratfor, visiting professor at the United States Naval Academy, senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, and member of both the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board and the U.S. Navy's Executive Panel. *Foreign Policy* magazine twice named him one of the world's "Top 100 Global Thinkers." *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman included Kaplan among the four "most widely read" authors defining the post-Cold War era. Kaplan's influential articles, "The Coming Anarchy" and "Was Democracy Just A Moment?" were widely debated and translated. His work even prompted President Clinton to order an interagency study, which agreed with Kaplan's conclusions.



Thank you to ASU's School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership (SCETL) for sponsoring this keynote.

Established in 2017, SCETL combines a classical liberal arts curriculum with study abroad programs, professional internships, and leadership opportunities, preparing students for careers in government, law, business, and civil society.

Day 1 | July 31, 2024

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Panel: A Case Study of the China Belt and Road Initiative

Moderator: Darrin Dodds, Associate Director, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi State University

Mark Purdy, Aimpoint Research

As Chief Operations Officer, Colonel (retired) Mark Purdy oversees daily operations, research oversight, and accountability. He helps clients strategically activate research results and develop business strategies. A West Point graduate, Purdy brings 30 years of leadership experience, having commanded combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan and managed multi-billion-dollar security assistance portfolios. He also served as Director of Wargames at the U.S. Army War College. Raised on a farm in Ohio, Purdy continues to operate his family farm. He holds a BS in Environmental Engineering from West Point and master's degrees from the Air Force Air University and the U.S. Army War College.



Brigadier General (Ret.) Russell Howard

Brigadier General (Ret.) Russell Howard is a rancher in Paso Robles, California, and a Senior Fellow at the Joint Special Operations University in Tampa, Florida. He is a member of the Antiquities Coalition Advisory Council and has held notable positions including Senior Adviser to Singapore's Home Team Academy and founding Director of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. His military career includes roles as commander of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), assistant to the UN Special Representative in Somalia, and deputy commander for the Combined Joint Task Force in Haiti. He holds degrees from San Jose State University, the University of Maryland, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and Harvard University.



Dean Cheng, U.S. Institute of Peace

Dean Cheng is a senior advisor to the China program at the U.S. Institute of Peace, previously spending over a decade at The Heritage Foundation as a senior research fellow on Chinese political and security affairs. He has written extensively on China's military doctrine and its space program. Before Heritage, Cheng worked at Science Applications International Corporation and the Center for Naval Analyses. He has testified before US Congress and appeared on various public affairs shows and media outlets. Cheng is the author of *Cyber Dragon*, examining Chinese information and cyber activities.



Day 1 | July 31, 2024

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

Panel: *The Role of Technology to Further Agricultural Competitive Statecraft*

Co-Moderators: Narcisa Pricope, Associate Vice President for Research, Mississippi State University and Vice-Admiral (Ret.) Robert Sharp, Former Director, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

Robert Sharp, Former Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Vice Admiral Bob Sharp, USN (Ret.) served as the Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, one of our nation's premier intelligence agencies, from February 2019 until June 2022. He and his team were responsible for delivering world-class geospatial intelligence to provide a decisive advantage to policy makers, military service members, intelligence professionals, first responders, and international partners. He was accountable for over 14,000 civilian, military and contractor employees in over 120 locations world-wide.

Sharp served as a Naval Intelligence Officer for over 34 years, and as a leader within the Navy's Information Warfare Community since its inception. Sharp is currently the CEO of B Sharp – Global Solutions, doing a combination of consulting, advisory and fellowship work focused on helping people who are trying to make the world a better place succeed.



K.C. Kroll, Descartes Lab

KC Kroll is a distinguished leader in business development and strategy within the geospatial and remote sensing sectors, bringing over 25 years of experience to his role. Renowned for his adeptness in bridging the gap between public and private sectors, Kroll has been pivotal in crafting partnerships that drive innovative solutions for complex global challenges. Before his tenure at Descartes Labs, Kroll made significant contributions at L-3 Communications and Maxar, where he refined his expertise and extended his influence. His career is marked by a commitment to advancing cutting-edge technologies and delivering impactful results to government organizations.



Kim Murphy, Airbus

Kim Murphy, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate from the class of 1983, began her career as an intelligence officer with assignments in Anti-Submarine Warfare, all-source intelligence reporting, and liaison with the Japanese Self Defense Force. Post-service, she supported intelligence community and DoD customers as a Systems Engineer at Lockheed Martin and later worked for Microsoft Federal as a certified Cloud Architect. Before joining Airbus U.S., Murphy was an independent consultant on intelligence and cyber security issues. Now, as Director of Intelligence Programs at Airbus U.S., she leverages satellite imagery to address national security, climate issues, disaster recovery, and more.



Chris Ogier, Sanborn

Chris Ogier is the Federal Business Development and Government Affairs lead for Sanborn Geospatial. Over his 30 year career, Ogier has become a recognized expert in the field of remote sensing and land use/land cover modeling. He has a particular focus on the study and implementation of three-dimensional data capture and delivery, from aircraft and terrestrial systems. Ogier has leveraged his experience with civilian applications, in numerous commercial markets, as well as with the military, and at all levels of government. He has served as both an Enlisted Infantryman and a Transportation Officer with the U.S. Army.



Mike Bennett, ICEYE

Mike Bennett is the Head of Government Solutions, North America for ICEYE. For nearly 15 years, Bennett has worked in the weather and natural disaster industry, from operational forecasting and hazard communication in broadcast meteorology, to peril risk assessment and post-event forensics in the Insurtech space. In his current role, he helps governments and public sector organizations understand ICEYE's natural disaster insights to improve disaster response efforts, improve humanitarian aid and hazard communications, and fuel alternative risk transfer projects focused around improving recovery outcomes for disaster survivors. At ICEYE, Bennett has helped lead the development of the monitoring, forecasting, and satellite targeting operations for ICEYE Flood Insights.



Kate van Dam, Skyfi

Kate van Dam is SkyFi's Head of Strategic Growth, leading a team to build the premier geospatial hub. Previously, she was a Senior Director at InQTel, collaborating with start-ups and the U.S. government on national security. As a Marine Corps Reserves Lieutenant Colonel, she served 10 years on active duty as an attack helicopter pilot. In 2017, van Dam was a White House Fellow at HUD during a record year for natural disasters. She graduated from the US Naval Academy and holds an MA in International Economics and International Relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS.



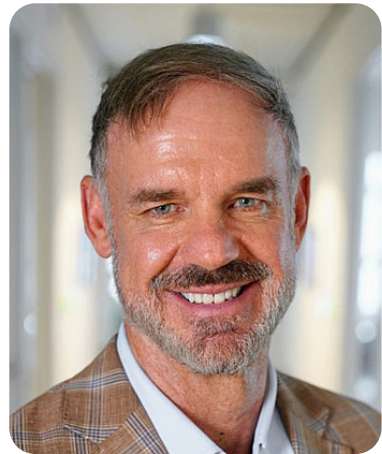
Day 1 | July 31, 2024
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS)

Introduction: Julie Sims, Deputy Director of Research, International Institute, Mississippi State University

David Johnson, Director, Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS)

LTC David Johnson, US Army (Ret.) is the Executive Director of C4ADS (the Center for Advanced Defense Studies), a Washington, DC-based, non-partisan, non-profit dedicated to addressing cross-cutting global security challenges. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Command and General Staff Course, and the Joint Defense College at the Ecole Militaire in Paris, Johnson holds a Master's degree in the History of Strategy from La Sorbonne.



**This concludes the program for Day 1.
Please join us for a reception and cocktail hour.**

Day 2 | August 1, 2024

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Keynote Address: *Water: Threat to Stability*

Introduction: Ashli Brown, Associate Vice President of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University

Brigadier General (Ret.) Russell D. Howard

Brigadier General (Ret.) Russell Howard is rancher in Paso Robles, California. He is also Senior Fellow at the Joint Special Operations University in Tampa Florida. General Howard is also a member of the Antiquities Coalition Advisory Council. Previously, General Howard was the Senior Adviser to Singapore's Home Team Academy, the founding Director of The Jebson Center for Counterterrorism Studies at The Fletcher School, Tufts University, the Head of the Department of Social Sciences and the founding Director of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.



General Howard's Army positions include chief of staff fellow at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, and commander of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, Washington. He also served as assistant to the Special Representative to the UN during operations in Somalia, deputy chief of staff for I Corps, and deputy commander for the Combined Joint Task Force in Haiti. He commanded the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, and served as an assistant to Admiral Stansfield Turner and the SOUTHCOM commander. Early in his career, he was an "A" team commander in the 7th Special Forces Group and later served in the Army Reserve while working in Australia and China. Recalled to active duty in 1980, he served in Korea as an infantry company commander.

General Howard has a BS in Industrial Management from San Jose State University and a BA in Asian Studies from the University of Maryland. He also has an MA in International Management from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and an MPA from Harvard University.

Panel: *Forging Agricultural & Food Linkages Between Countries*

Moderator: Keith Coble, Vice President of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University

Joe Glauber, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Joe Glauber is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. He is also a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and a non-resident scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Prior to joining IFPRI, Glauber spent over 30 years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture including as Chief Economist, 2008 - 2014. As Chief Economist, he was responsible for the Department's agricultural forecasts and projections, oversaw climate, energy and regulatory issues, and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. From 2007-2009, Glauber was the Special Doha Agricultural Envoy at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative where he served as chief agricultural negotiator in the Doha talks. He served as economic adviser at the so-called Blair House agreements leading to the completion of the Uruguay Round negotiations and was senior economist for agriculture at the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He is the author of numerous studies on crop insurance, agricultural policy, and agricultural trade issues.



Seth Meyer, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Seth Meyer was appointed USDA's Chief Economist in January 2021. Before this, he was a Research Professor and Associate Director at the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri. FAPRI provides insights into commodity production, prices, farm income, and trade impacts for Congress and the USDA.

Meyer previously led the World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) in the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) at USDA, responsible for global crop assessments published in the 'WASDE' report. He also served as an economist with the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and as a visiting scholar at various research institutions worldwide. Meyer grew up in eastern Iowa and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri.



Jeremy Stump, Nutrien

As Vice President of Nutrien's Global Government and Industry Affairs team, Stump develops and implements global strategies and provides political counsel to the CEO and senior management. He also leads the Washington, D.C. office, liaising with US officials, trade associations, and industry stakeholders.

Stump oversees a team of fourteen professionals in the US, Canada, Australia, and Brazil. Before joining Nutrien in November 2018, he was Vice President of North America Government Affairs for Monsanto, leading government affairs in the US, Canada, and Latin America.

Previously, Stump worked at USDA for eight years in senior positions, including Deputy Chief of Staff, and spent five years as a senior aide to Congressman Thomas W. Ewing (R-IL). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from George Mason University.



Panel: *Target Countries' Needs: Our Response vs. the Adversaries*

Moderator: Mick Crnkovich, Director for Irregular Warfare, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict

Ben Ruddell, Northern Arizona University

Ben Ruddell is a full-time professor and the Director of the School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems at Northern Arizona University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Arizona (water resources practice). His professional experience is in informatics, data science, systems engineering, and generally in the leadership of the interdisciplinary university enterprise. His research includes the acquisition, fusion, organization, and utilization of novel data sources, and touches on both the theoretical and practical aspects of the ethics of data in an age of information.



Michael C. Ryan, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Europe/NATO

Michael C. Ryan served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy. With nearly four decades of experience, he served 25 years in the US Air Force and held senior roles at the US Mission to NATO, the US Mission to the EU, and US European Command.

In the private sector, he was the Managing Director of Carrolltown Monastery, a member of Vectrus' Growth and Strategic Advisory Team, and Vice Chairman of the Carrolltown Municipal Authority Board. Ryan holds a Bachelor's in Soviet Studies from the US Air Force Academy and a Master's in International Relations from Troy University.



Narcisa Pricope, Mississippi State University

Narcisa Pricope is the Associate Vice President for Research at MSU and a Professor of Geosciences. Previously, she founded and directed the Geospatial Intelligence program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW). She also managed the first National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) contract awarded to academic institutions. During her 10-year tenure at UNCW, Pricope received numerous awards for research and student mentorship and secured funding from NSF, NASA, NCDOT, NOAA, USAID, World Bank, and Global Environment Facility. Her research uses geospatial modeling, remote sensing, and aerial systems to study socio-ecological systems, environmental variability, and population vulnerability.



Alicia Ellis, Arizona State University

Alicia Ellis is an Assistant Teaching Professor and Director of the MA in Global Security program at ASU. She develops coursework on national security, economic statecraft, geopolitics, and war & conflict. Ellis was appointed Presidential Management Fellow in 2012, during which she served as an analyst at the Department of Treasury's Office of Financial Research and later as a policy analyst for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations. While assigned to the State Department, she studied Russian language at the Institute of World Politics. A former Air Force officer, she served two deployments as an Air Battle Manager in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including three months as Joint Air Operations Center Liaison Officer.



Joel Starr, U.S. Institute of Peace

Joel Starr is the counselor on special assignment for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Prior to joining USIP, Starr served as the deputy assistant secretary of state for regional security in the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, where his division contributed the defense component to the 2020 Abraham Accords. Other previous public service positions include time as counsel for foreign and military affairs to Senator James Inhofe; deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs; acting deputy assistant administrator for legislative and public affairs at USAID; counsel and foreign affairs legislative assistant to Congressman Tom Campbell (R-CA); as well as attorney and advisor to former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp. In 2018, Starr retired after 20 years of service as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he specialized in international and operational law.



Closing Remarks

Keith Coble, Vice President of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM), Mississippi State University

A first-generation college graduate, Keith Coble earned his B.S. in agricultural education from the University of Missouri, his M.S. while teaching high school agriculture, and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University in 1993. Coble worked at the USDA's Economic Research Service before joining MSU's Department of Agricultural Economics faculty in 1997.

He served as Chief Economist for the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee (2013-2014) and led the MSU Department of Agricultural Economics from 2016 until his appointment as DAFVM Vice President. Coble has served as President of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and received the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. Coble has published over 95 research journal articles and 160 conference papers on topics such as risk management, farm policy, insurance, and agricultural data analytics. He served on the USDA Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics (2020-2022) and is a member of the Ag Data Coalition Board of Directors.



Ryan Shaw, Managing Director of Strategic Initiatives and Senior Advisor to Arizona State University President Michael Crow



Visit our websites to learn more about our universities.



ASU® Arizona State University

Competitive Statecraft Initiative



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™