

# Space Policy Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Spring 2020 Newsletter

### Recent Events

Due to the unfortunate Covid-19 crisis, the Space Policy Institute was forced to postpone many events planned for the spring and summer of 2020. Furthermore, space-related courses within the Elliott School's M.A. in International Science and Technology Policy were forced to switch to on-line teaching following the spring break. The Institute hopes to resume normal, in-person operation in the fall 2020 semester, pending The George Washington University's decision.

In February, the Space Policy Institute organized a widely attended panel discussion moderated by SPI graduate student Renata Knittel Kommel and titled "Emerging Issues in Space Governance." The event was co-sponsored by the Space Generation Advisory Council, and featured distinguished speakers such as H.E. Ambassador Gaston Stronck, Luxembourg Embassy to the United States, and other diplomats and government officials from the United States, Japan, and Brazil.



Josef Koller, the Aerospace Corporation (left), and Renata Knittel Kommel, SPI graduate

In early March, SPI collaborated with the Aerospace Corporation's Center for Space Policy and Strategy to present "Space Domain Awareness: Building Trust in the Data." The event focused on how can we address the issue of trust

when using data that is not from the U.S. government's own certified sensor system.

### Faculty and Staff News

**Professor Scott Pace** (on leave) continues his appointment serving as Executive Secretary of the National Space Council, working at the White House on all major U.S. space policy issues.

He has led U.S. delegations to meetings of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and has co-lead the U.S. delegation at annual bilateral meetings of the U.S.-Japan Comprehensive Dialogue on Space, in Tokyo and Washington.

Prof. Pace has worked with Congress, the OMB, OSTP and other agencies on the annual budgets for space, and many other matters. He has also made policy presentations to a wide variety of industry, academic, international, and other groups

We look forward to his rejoining the Space Policy Institute when his leave of absence is over.

**Professor Emeritus John Logsdon** embarked on a new book project in January. His study will ask why no one has left low Earth orbit since 1972, even though four of the last five presidents have directed NASA to once again send humans back to the Moon, on to Mars, or to other distant destinations.

As part of that study Dr. Logsdon visited the George H.W. Bush presidential library in College Station, Texas in early March and collected almost 1,000 pages of relevant documents on Bush's 1989-1992 Space Exploration Initiative.

**Professor Pascale Ehrenfreund** (on leave and currently Chairman of the DLR) has received the Women in Aerospace (WIA) Europe Outstanding

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Achievement Award in recognition of her status as a leader and as a role model for women working in the aerospace sector. She has also been honored with the Jean Dominique Cassini Medal 2020 of the European Geophysical Union for her leadership in international space exploration and breadth of her scientific achievements, which have gained her distinction as a co-founder in the field of astrobiology.

Dr. Ehrenfreund also continues to serve as President of the International Astronautical Federation and also as Chancellor of the International Space University.

**Adjunct Professor Peter Hays** recently published a paper titled “Is this the Space Force You’re Looking For? Opportunities and Challenges for the Space Force,” in *Space Strategy at a Crossroads: Opportunities and Challenges for 21st Century Competition*, Benjamin Bahney, ed., (Livermore: Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, May 2020). Professor Hays was also acknowledged for his prepublication review and comments, and was extensively cited in multiple publications on space warfare and defense.

Quickly adapting to current Covid-19 restrictions, Professor Hays offered a presentation via teleconference on the topic of “Establishing the Space Force.” This was part of the Forum on Air & Space Law of the American Bar Association, held in March 2020.

**Adjunct Professor Dr. John Klein** taught the undergraduate course “Space in International Affairs.” In January, Dr. Klein supported the U.S. Space Force’s Schriever Wargame Table Top Seminar in Newport, Rhode Island, and he facilitated the incorporation of commercial and civil capabilities into the wargame.

In March, both Dr. Klein and Prof. Hertzfeld participated in the space policy workshop “Working Smarter with America’s Spacefaring Allies,” sponsored by the Nonproliferation Policy

Education Center of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Law and National Security, held in Washington, DC. In May, Dr. Klein discussed, via teleconference, the topic of deterring cyberterrorism with the students from Air Force Special Operations School. Dr. Klein wrote the article, “Attribution in the Space Domain: A Cooperative Framework for Enhancing Space Deterrence,” which is scheduled for publication in June 2020.

## Student News

During the Spring 2020 semester, space policy students held jobs and internships in many different government agencies, think tanks, and private companies. These included the Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of State, the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ Aerospace Security Project, the Aerospace Corporation, Astroscale, and SpaceX, among others.

First year graduate student Tyler Way was one of the principal authors of the Space Threat Assessment 2020, published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ Aerospace Security Project. Shortly thereafter, Tyler began an internship with the Aerospace Corporation’s Center for Space Policy and Strategy, working on projects relating to Artificial Intelligence and space domain awareness. Second year graduate student Alyssa K. King published two reports for the Congressional Research Service, on the topics of the FCC’s draft rule seeking to limit space debris, and the small satellite boom posing challenges for regulators. Second year graduate student Luc Riesbeck published a paper with the Aerospace Corporation’s Center for Space Policy and Strategy on the effects of LEO constellations on astronomy and stargazing.

Numerous SPI graduate students, alumni, and faculty members participated in the SATELLITE 2020 conference in March in Washington, DC. They presented moderated discussions, were featured speakers on various panel discussions,

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and attended sessions and exhibits. The Institute itself also had a strong presence, contributing to discussions and events as well as forming new ties with space researchers around the world.

This semester the Introduction to Human Health in Space course was again taught by Dr. Claudia Ranniger of the George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine and Dr. Mark Shelhamer of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The course, which was well received by students, is an interdisciplinary course meant to introduce aerospace medicine concepts for SPI and non-SPI students interested in human spaceflight.

We are very proud of our space policy students who graduated this May with their M.A. in International Science and Technology Policy. They are: Cheikh Faye, Renata Knittel Kommel, Mohammad Kushan, Ethan Maniscalco, Gwen Mazzotta, Ashley Peter, Mackenzie Puig-Hall, and Lucille Riesbeck and Rob Van Steenburg. In addition, Ashley Peter and Mackenzie Puig-Hall are scheduled to graduate at the end of this summer. We wish each of them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

## Message From the Director



We have all experienced a very stressful, unusual, and unprecedented spring semester due to the sudden adjustments we have had to make to accommodate the Covid-19 situation. At the end of March all of our classes, events, and public speeches were cancelled, postponed, or switched to an on-line platform. This situation is likely to

also affect all summer and many fall 2020 activities as well.

There are still many very significant accomplishments to highlight. First, we have added several new students this spring. Our expectations for the upcoming academic year indicate that approximately 9 additional new students with a strong space policy interest will enter our graduate M.A. program.

We had to cancel an interesting conference focused on the role of economic analyses in policy making for space debris mitigation. That was planned to be held at the Embassy of Italy in cooperation with the Bocconi School of Management. If possible, we will reschedule that panel for early December. Also postponed until next March was the USRA Symposium on small satellites. Both the Legal Subcommittee and the plenary sessions of UNCOPUOS in Vienna, Austria were also cancelled. We hope to actively participate when they are reconvened.

In addition to the events and activities mentioned earlier, despite the Covid-19 situation, our Space Law Moot Court team was able to participate in their annual Moot Court competition. This year the orals were delayed significantly but were ultimately held on-line. Though we did not proceed on to the final rounds, our students adapted and acquitted themselves well in difficult circumstances and against strong competition.

I had a busy spring, participating in several space law panels held at the GW Law School. I also spoke to a Model UN group of high school students, gave a lecture on space law at the National Defense University, and participated in a podcast interview on the policy implications of the new Executive Order on the use of resources in space that was hosted by Jim Vedda of the Aerospace Corporation.

On the more disappointing side, the faculty position we were allocated for a new tenured senior professor slot in space policy was terminated by the University in March as part of a University-wide hiring freeze related to financial

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and personnel adjustments from the pandemic threat. We are optimistic that we will get approval to start a new search next year.

In summary, although disappointed by current events, the SPI will continue to be active in the space policy arena. We look forward to holding our fall classes and continuing our role as an important platform for academic achievement. We will be reenergizing and redirecting our efforts this summer and fall to sponsor and participate in as many forums as possible on important space policy matters. These will provide our students, alumni, and friends with continued interesting and important opportunities for the exchange of information and ideas.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to everyone for their help and support in making this year a successful one in spite of the unforeseen and sudden changes we all had to make. I hope you will have a safe and good summer and look forward to seeing everyone once again in more normal surroundings as soon as possible.

## Supporters

Our efforts would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of the following partners:

The Aerospace Corporation  
The D.H. Chen Foundation  
Jacobs Engineering  
Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Universities Space Research Association

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