

The Eisenhower Institute

Grounded in President Dwight D. Eisenhower's legacy of leadership, The Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College promotes nonpartisan discourse and critical analysis of issues of long-term importance through competitive fellowships, access to renowned experts, and symposia.

The Institute prepares undergraduates to assume their responsibility as global citizens in public, private, and nonprofit sectors—students learn how to lead with integrity, build capital to garner influence, and translate knowledge into action.

Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellowship

The Undergraduate Fellowship offers a select group of Gettysburg College seniors the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and enhance their understanding of public policy. The Fellows also engage in the planning and promotion of specific programs and projects. They are responsible for selecting, developing, and promoting a public policy theme. Fellows meet with high-level elected officials and public servants.

2016-2017 Undergraduate Fellows

Anthony Citarella '17	Lynn Hatcher '17
Gregory Dachille '17	Katerina Krohn '17
John Duncan, III '17	Piper O'Keefe '17
Yanet Gonzalez '17	Alyssa Waaramaa '17

Dr. Shirley Anne Warshaw, Harold G. Evans Chair of Eisenhower Leadership Studies

EI Professional Staff

Susan Eisenhower, Chairman Emeritus
Robert E. Bohrer II, Ph.D., Associate Provost & Dean of Public Policy Programs
Jeffrey M. Blavatt '88, Executive Director
Benjamin R. Hill, Assistant Director
David Wemer '14, Program Coordinator

EI Office Assistants & Campus Communications Team

Mariam Aghayan '17	Cole Garr '18	Elizabeth Miller '19
Taylor Beck '17	Yanet Gonzalez '17	Konrad Neptun '17
Thomas Calbos '19	Catherine Gregg '17	Khun Minn Ohn '19
Corinne Day '17	Rachel Haskins '17	Claire Quinn '18
Guilia DiGuglielmo '18	Jeffrey Lauck '18	Charlotte Scheper '17
Marley Dizney Swanson '18	Abigail Major '19	Maja Thomas '17
Alex Engelsman '18	Jared McCully '19	



Washington D.C. Office
818 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006
202.628.4444 • 202.628.4445 f
ei@gettysburg.edu

Gettysburg Office
300 N Washington St, Box 2988
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1400
717.337.6685 • 717.337.8459 f
ei@gettysburg.edu



UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS



Make America Safe Again?

A Panel on the National Security Risk of Refugees

Featuring:
Amer Alfayadh
Stacie Blake
Dr. Chris Bolan

Thursday, February 9, 2017 – Joseph Theater, Breidenbaugh Hall



www.eisenhowerinstitute.org

Program

Welcome

Jeffrey Blavatt '88
Executive Director
Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College

Performance of the National Anthem

Drop the Octave

Introduction

Anthony Citarella '17 & Yanet Gonzalez '17
Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellows

Panel Discussion

"Make America Safe Again –
A Panel on the National Security Risk of Refugees"

Part One: Implications on National Security

Moderators

Anthony Citarella '17 & Yanet Gonzalez '17
Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellows

Part Two: Implications on Community Security

Moderators

Piper O'Keefe '17 & Alyssa Waaramaa '17
Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellows

Panelists

Amer Alfayadh, Sr. Match Grant Case Manager /
Immigration & Refugee Program, Church World Service
Stacie Blake, Director of Government & Community Relations, U.S.
Committee for Refugees & Immigrants
Dr. Chris Bolan, Professor of Middle East Security Studies at the
Strategic Institute, U.S. Army War College

Question & Answer Session

Closing Remarks

Piper O'Keefe '17 & Alyssa Waaramaa '17
Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellows

About the Discussion

The Eisenhower Institute Undergraduate Fellows welcome you to the second in a series of expert panels on domestic refugee policy. In this panel, the Undergraduate Fellows seek to learn more about the true impact of refugees on National Security. Are there risks to National Security by admitting refugees? Is there a greater risk to National Security if we were to ban entry into the United States for refugees? Join our Undergraduate Fellows and esteemed panelists as we explore these important questions.

About the Speakers



Amer Alfayadh moved to the United States in 2010 from Iraq as an immigrant. His passion for helping other refugees and immigrants led him to volunteer at Church World Service (CWS) where he currently works as a Senior Case Manager in Lancaster, PA. Amer graduated from the University of Technology in Baghdad-Iraq with B.Sc. in production engineering, and he is currently an MPA student at the University of Roehampton-England. Outside of work, Amer enjoys exploring the rich heritage of the Lancaster area with his small family.



Stacie Blake is the Director of Government and Community Relations for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, a position she has held since 2014. Previously, she led the USCRI Vermont field office where she was recognized by the Vermont Legislature with a Joint Resolution of Appreciation for her work with refugees and immigrants across the state. Prior to rejoining USCRI, Stacie led a Florida program to end discrimination and the Florida Center for Survivors of Torture where she developed the National Partnership for Community Training, a collaborative program meant to share best practices for communities with torture survivors. Stacie holds two degrees from the University of Vermont and was elected twice as a member of the Mount Mansfield Union School District. She is a graduate of the Vermont Leadership Institute and Leadership Florida.



Dr. Chris Bolan is currently a professor of Middle East Security Studies at the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College where he researches and teaches graduate-level courses on contemporary national security issues and the Middle East. Prior to his time at the U.S. Army War College, he served thirty years in the U.S. Army in various command, staff, and instructor positions. After his time in the military, Chris went on to gain both his Master's degree and Ph.D. in international relations from Georgetown University. After Georgetown, he served six years as a senior foreign policy advisor and analyst on Middle Eastern and South Asian affairs for Vice Presidents Gore and Cheney. During that time, he participated in senior interagency deliberations at the level of Assistant Secretary and regularly attended Principals and Deputies Committee meetings of the National Security Council. Chris has also prepared hundreds of policy briefings/papers for senior officials at the White House, Pentagon, Congress, and U.S. embassies overseas. In addition to currently teaching at the U.S. Army War College, he frequently writes about U.S. foreign policy and has had his work published by many different media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, and *Divergent Options*.

The Refugee Processing and Screening System

How refugee cases are processed and screened before refugees are resettled in the United States.



Refugee Resettlement

The United States has long been a global leader in resettling the world's most vulnerable people. Since 1975, the United States has resettled more than 3.2 million refugees fleeing from war and persecution.

In Fiscal Year 2016, the United States welcomed nearly 85,000 refugees. Roughly 72% of these refugees were women and children.

01 Registration and Data Collection

Refugees in need of protection apply for refugee resettlement. Usually, refugees are referred by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), which collects initial documentation and biographical information.

This information is transferred to a Department of State-funded Resettlement Support Center (RSC). The RSC conducts an in-depth interview with the applicant, enters the applicant's documentation into the Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admission Processing System (WRAPS), cross-references and verifies the data, and sends the information necessary to conduct a background check to other U.S. agencies.



02 Security Checks Begin

U.S. national security agencies, including the National Counterterrorism Center, FBI, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense, and the Department of State, as well as the intelligence community, begin screening the applicant using the data transmitted from the RSCs.

The screening checks for security threats, including connections to known bad actors, and past immigration or criminal violations. For Syrian applicants, DHS conducts an additional enhanced review.

Refugees are screened more carefully than any other type of traveler to the U.S.

03 DHS Interview

Security screening results from each agency are transmitted back to DHS and the State Department. Specially trained DHS officers review initial screening results, conduct in-person interviews in the host country, and collect biometric data from the applicants.

The DHS interview confirms the information collected from the previous interviews conducted by the State Department's RSCs. Additional interviews are conducted as new information arises. With each interview, data is verified in person and in WRAPS.

If new information emerges during the interview, the information is entered into WRAPS and additional security checks are conducted. If inconsistencies emerge at any point, the case is put on hold until the inconsistencies are resolved. Once all interviews and checks are complete, DHS adjudicates the case, the decision is entered into WRAPS, and the process continues.



04 Biometric Security Checks



Fingerprints collected by U.S. government employees are stored in a DHS database and screened against:

- The FBI biometric database;
- The DHS biometric database, which includes watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas; and
- The U.S. Department of Defense database, which includes fingerprints obtained around the world.

These fingerprint screening results are reviewed by DHS. Cases with any problematic results are denied. Otherwise, the process continues.

05 Cultural Orientation and Medical Check



Cultural Orientation

Applicants complete a class designed to teach them about American culture, customs and practices.

&



Medical Check

All refugees approved by DHS undergo a medical screening to identify diseases of public health significance.

The results of the medical examination are entered into WRAPS. If a case is cleared after the medical check, the process continues.

06 Assignment to Domestic Resettlement Locations and Travel



Every week, representatives from each of the nine domestic resettlement agencies meet and review applicant information transmitted from the RSCs via WRAPS to determine where to resettle each refugee.

Once these placement decisions are made, the placement is recorded in WRAPS, and the refugee is notified of their destination.



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) books travel for the refugees.

Prior to entry in the U.S., applicants are subject to screening from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program.

Applicants with no security concerns continue their travel.

07 ARRIVAL IN THE U.S.

Applicants arrive in the United States, where representatives from nine domestic resettlement agencies welcome refugees at the airport and begin the process of helping them settle in to their new communities.



In Fiscal Year 2016, the U.S. welcomed 84,995 refugees from around the world.



For Additional Information, Visit:

<https://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/admissions/>