

Christopher McDermott
Associate Director of Academic Programs
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

EDUCATION

M.S. in International Affairs
Georgia Institute of Technology

B.A. in History
Kennesaw State University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Director of Academic Programs August 2023 to Present
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Proficiency in Navigate360, Banner, and DegreeWorks. Advised students during iGniTe FASET program and all sessions of First Year/Transfer/First Year Study Abroad FASETs. Address student concerns on course selection, graduation, readmission, and individual research goals; including independent study guidance and course creation. Advise faculty on solutions to student concerns. Support planning initiatives and advise curriculum changes. Direct annual student visit to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Instructor, American Government May 2020 to Present
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Instructor, Scenario Writing and Pathgaming August 2018 to Present
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Instructor, Careers in International Affairs January 2024 to Present
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Associate Director July 2022 to August 2023
Center for International Strategy, Technology, and Policy (CISTP)

Provide research support on faculty grants. Manage activities for CISTP/Sam Nunn School of International Affairs grants from federal sources, nonprofits, industry, and local endowments. Tasks included drafting interim and final reports, drafting budgets in Excel for grant renewal and new grant submission, and researching new grant opportunities. Responsible for maintaining CISTP and the Sam Nunn School's relationships and public image across Georgia Tech's campus, metro Atlanta, and Washington, DC. These collaborations have led to event co-sponsorship and/or grant proposal co-sponsorship. Regularly manages events with invited speakers including military officials, international and federal government officials, and national and international scholars. Current research is on wargaming, simulations, and scenario writing with a specific focus on promoting practical learning within the Sam Nunn School curriculum.

Research Associate I May 2015 to June 2022
Center for International Strategy, Technology, and Policy

PUBLICATIONS

"A Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Northeast Asia: Perspectives of the DPRK, ROK, and Japan,"
Mongolian Forum on Northeast Asia Peaceful Development and Korean Unification, Session IV, NEA Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and Stakeholders Roles for North Korea's Denuclearization and Implications for a Unified Korea. <https://globalpeace.org/news/mounting-regional-challenges-and-opportunities-for-cooperation-economic-integration-and-enhanced-security>

PRESENTATIONS

Session Facilitator, Georgia Tech Cybersecurity Leadership Program; July 2016

Session Facilitator; The Dynamics of Command, Control, and Communication in Cyber Conflict Escalation: A Scenario Based Examination; Washington, DC, September 2017

Session Facilitator; RuBase Subject Matter Expert Workshops; Kiev, Ukraine, and The Hague, The Netherlands, October 2019

Session Facilitator, Scenario Exercise; ACC Leadership Group; Georgia Institute of Technology; October 2025

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Participant; "Tabletop Exercise" (TTX, 2025區域安全兵推); National Chengchi University, Taiwan; March 2025

Participant; Energy and National Security Lunch and Learn; Topic: Interactive Wargaming; Georgia Institute of Technology; September 2025

STUDENT ADVISORY ROLES

Advisor, Georgia Tech Simulation and Modeling Student Organization, January 2023 – May 2024

Advisor, Georgia Tech Model NATO, November 2022 – Present

Advisor, International Affairs Student Organization, August 2024 - Present

Co-Advisor, Georgia Tech Model United Nations, January 2020 – May 2022

LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION

Advised CISTP's Research Assistant (RA) during the 2022 Summer Semester. Under guidance, the RA developed a hypothetical scenario that explored the potential for a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. They also supported data collection for CISTP activities and research.

Managed the Neal Family Fellow during the 2021 Summer Semester. The Fellow provided event write-ups and support, grant opportunities research, research support, communications support, and developed surveys for event and research data collection.

The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs assigns a Graduate Student each semester to support CISTP research and programmatic activities. So far that has included nine different graduate students over fourteen semesters. These students report to the Associate Director at CISTP and provide event write-ups and support, grant opportunities research, research support, and communications support.

Supervise Graduate Teaching Assistants for American Government (INTA 1200) from Summer 2020 and 2021 semesters. Student(s) were responsible for supporting discussion board discourse, holding office hours, student communication, and grading.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Developed a novel approach that utilizes a combination of free technology (Slack communication software, Microsoft Teams, and Google Docs) available to all students and concepts/methods used in the Scenario Writing and Path Gaming course. Faculty have recognized that using scenarios/simulations in their courses is a useful method to apply concepts and theories learned in class to real-world, applicable settings.

AWARDS

2020 Buzz Award Recipient for Excellence in Administrative Service

Thank a Teacher Award Recipient: Scenario Writing and Pathgaming; American Government