



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



2017 Veterans in Global Leadership Fellows

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***"Veterans in Global Leadership is an incredible program for aspiring future leaders. Their program was foundational in helping me understand how to cultivate my personal brand, applying to prestigious fellowships, and giving me access to world leaders like David Petraeus." - Pete Kiernan (U.S. George Mitchell Scholar & Truman National Security Project Fellow)***



2017 Veterans in Global Leadership Fellows. at 4-Day Flagship Summit at Georgetown University



# VETERANS IN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



General David Petraeus (Former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and VGL Advocate) invited VGL Fellows for a private lunch and round-table discussion on leadership.

## WHO ARE WE

Veterans in Global Leadership is a collection of some of the most qualified young veterans from across the country, all seeking to enter positions of global leadership to make the world a better place.

## OUR GOAL

Cultivate student veterans with high-potential to serve as change agents and leaders in a range of fields.

## OUR PROGRAM

Premier 12 month leadership development program that provides student veterans with brand development, private networking, leadership seminars, career guidance and one-on-one application counseling for prestigious scholarships and fellowships.



Deputy Secretary Scott Blackburn with Veterans in Global Leadership Fellow James Fitzgerald



***"Veterans in Global Leadership has galvanized some of the most incredible leaders to guide me as I focus my potential to reach the peaks of my aspirations. VGL continuously engages the changing technological, economic, and geopolitical landscapes and cultivates a cohort of individuals that share a mutual dedication to leadership after the uniform in service to the USA." James Fitzgerald (Warrior Scholar Fellow and The White House 2016 - First Lady's Office)***

# LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

Dear Supporters and Friends,



2017 has been an incredible year for Veterans in Global Leadership and our Fellows. Since 2015, when we founded the organization – we knew that the time was right to create a leadership development organization for those high-potential veterans willing to serve in global leadership roles. The future of veteran service organizations will be empowerment organizations focused on cultivating, mentoring and developing veterans into America's future leaders. VGL is ideally positioned to lead this new type of VSO.

In 1944, President Roosevelt signed into law the G.I. Bill for WWII Veterans. That generation then entered college and became known as the Greatest Generation. Out of those veterans, we gained 3 U.S. Presidents, 3 Supreme Court Justices, 14 Nobel Prize Winners, 24 Pulitzer Prize Winners and scores of global leaders.

Not since 1944 have we had returning veterans enter college at the rate as Post 9/11 Veterans. Currently, over 50% of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans attend college, with 62% being first-generation college students. More importantly, today's veterans volunteered during a time of war to serve which makes them even more unique.

We are currently witnessing the next inflection point in American leadership and one that I believe will lead to the second greatest generation of Americans. With the right cultivation, mentorship and guidance we will empower this group to lead our government and private enterprises in what is considered the 4th industrial revolution.

I have witnessed this first hand as a high school drop-out in rural South Carolina turned U.S. Fulbright Scholar and former Presidential Management Fellow at The White House and together with the leadership of VGL we have created a program that trains these student veterans to achieve what we consider Leadership Accelerator Awards (Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships). These prestigious scholarships and fellowships (U.S. Fulbright Scholarships, The White House Fellowships, Boren Scholarships, etc.) give our Fellows three essential assets: a brand, a network, and unique experiences. These are like oxygen to fires that are already burning brightly.

In our first two and half years, we have helped our Fellows earn over \$500,000 in these prestigious opportunities, and have helped them as they've accessed the halls of Congress, The White House and abroad. VGL is poised to educate the next generation of American leaders, and we stand ready to work harder than ever before to preserve America's edge as the leader of the free world.

VGL has never been more important than now. With the most innovative program and respected record of accomplishment as a leading voice for Veteran Leadership for America, VGL is uniquely qualified to serve as the leader in empowerment organizations within the veteran community. Together, imagine what we can achieve in 2018 beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayson W. Browder".

Jayson Browder

U.S. Air Force and Iraq Veteran

Founder and Chairman, Veterans in Global Leadership

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Deputy Secretary Scott Blackburn with Veterans in Global Leadership Fellows and Team

*"As a first-generation service member, Veterans in a Global Leadership was transformative in better crystallizing my potential and helping me better synthesize my passion and potential within democracy, development and peace & security. The program created a space where I was able to shine, sharpen my strengths, and be part of a genuinely inclusive, supportive community with other veterans of aligned ambitions and talent. The actionable support I've received from VGL Fellows, staff and mentors has bolstered me in many ways that I seek to replicate as a proud Alumna of the program." - Pam Campos - Truman National Security Project Fellow and Executive Director of Common Defense*

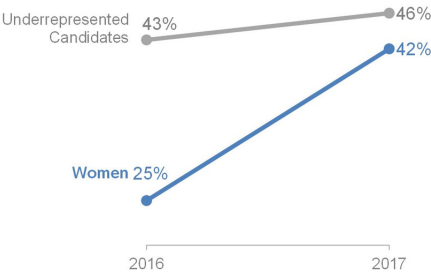


# 2016 - 2017 VGL DEMOGRAPHICS

While numbers only tell part of the Veterans in Global Leadership story, we are pleased with the increased diversity of our leaders which include 75% enlisted personnel, 55% of whom are pursuing graduate education and maintaining an average GPA of 3.6.

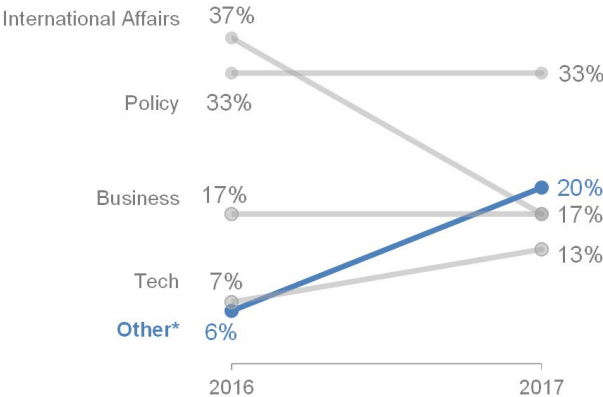
	2016	2017
VGL Fellows	30	24
GPA	3.6	3.6
By Percentage:		
Officer	30	25
Enlisted	70	75
Undergraduate	53	33
Graduate	47	67

Diversity Metrics from 2016-2017  
Striving for gender and racial parity in leadership roles



## Degree Concentrations from 2016-2017

As our program has evolved, we continue to draw in diverse degree candidates



\*communications, education and healthcare





# OUR FELLOWS SUCCESS



**VGL Fellows awarded over \$500,000 in prestigious scholarships & fellowships**

## National scholarships and fellowships earned

- Harry S. Truman Scholarship
- Schwarzman Scholarship
- U.S. Fulbright Scholarship to the United Kingdom
- U.S. Fulbright Scholarship to the Serbia
- 2 Boren Fellowships - Jordan
- U.S. George Mitchell Scholarship
- Pat Tillman Scholarship
- VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship
- Presidential Management Fellowship, The White House,OMB
- Presidential Management Fellowship, National Counter Terrorism Center, NCTC
- Presidential Management Fellowship, U.S. State Department
- Foreign Area Language Studies Scholarship, Stanford University in Yokohama
- NYU W.E.B Dubois/Nelson Mandela Commitment to Dialogue and Education
- 2 Carnegie New Leaders at Carnegie Council of Ethics and International Affairs
- 9 Defense Council Members at Truman National Security Project
- Warrior Scholar Project

## Return of Investment

- Harry S. Truman Scholarship (<5% Acceptance Rate) provides \$30,000 towards her graduate studies and multiple leadership development opportunities.
- Schwarzman Scholar (4% Acceptance Rate) provides tuition for Masters Degree, fees, room and board, travel to and from Beijing, course books and materials, laptop and smartphone, health insurance, and a personal stipend.
- Boren Fellowship - Jordan (21% Acceptance Rate) offers up to \$24,000 for overseas study for graduate students and up to \$30,000 for combined domestic and overseas study.
- U.S. George Mitchell Scholarship (5% Acceptance Rate) funds one academic year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. (Over \$40,000 scholarship).
- Presidential Management Fellowship (5% Acceptance Rate) hires fellows at the civil service ranks of GS-09, GS-11, or GS-12 for a two year program in the federal government with development and mentorship opportunities.
- Pat Tillman Scholarship Tuition & fees, housing, childcare, other expenses not covered by other benefits (\$10,000 + per Scholar / per year) of the identified degree program.

# PROGRAMMING

VGL aims to improve the quality of leadership by empowering student veterans to rise to the challenge. VGL invests in a diverse cohort of talented and high-achieving student veterans to prepare and guide them in winning fellowships, and scholarships that will facilitate their entry into impactful leadership roles. With each fellowship class, VGL develops a more robust network of highly accomplished veterans that support the mentoring process of other veterans. At the height of VGL's vision is to cultivate student veterans into the most powerful change agents and leaders. VGL fellows are the next generation of rising leaders in public office, business, law and more.



\*Currently, fellows are only required to meet in person for the 4 Day Leadership Seminar. The leadership programs, networking panels and social events are hosted in DC and NYC for fellows who are able to attend.



VGL Fellows Eddie Garcia and James Fitzgerald with Vice President of the U.S. Joe Biden

# PARTNERSHIPS



U.S. Army Recruiting Command partnering with veteran leaders from Got Your 6, The Mission Continues, Warrior Rising, Veterans in Global Leadership, Student Veterans of America, All Warrior Network, and ScoutComms on Veterans Day 2017.

## 2017 PARTNERS

2017 was an exciting year, and we added valuable partners dedicated to helping us build the future of veteran leadership development programs in the U.S.

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy | United Nations Association- United States of America | New York City- Department of Veteran Services | Forbes  
U.S. Army Recruiting Command | Georgetown University



# Forbes



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



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of the United States of America  
A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

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# LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



General Michael Hayden (Former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Director of National Security Agency and VGL Advocate) invited VGL Fellows for a private breakfast and round-table discussion on leadership.

## LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

Exclusive access for our fellows to today's thought leaders on global leadership. These seminars challenge our fellows to expand their thinking and push for positive societal changes. Fellows attend bi-monthly off-the-record sessions.

## EVENTS

General David Petraeus, Former CIA Director  
Ambassador William Taylor, Former Ambassador to the Ukraine  
General Michael Hayden, Former CIA and NSA Director



General David  
Petraeus



General Michael  
Hayden



Ambassador William  
Taylor

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General Michael Hayden (Former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Director of National Security Agency and VGL Advocate) invited VGL Fellows for a private breakfast and round-table discussion on leadership.



***"Exceptional leaders, such as General Hayden, recognize that developing future leaders involves guidance and mentorship. This understanding was exemplified when he took time away from his new book and busy work schedule to speak with Veterans in Global Leadership Fellows about the five tectonics we need to be aware of as we prepare for the mantle of national and global leadership." - Maureen Elias, Army Veteran & 2017 Veterans in Global Leadership Fellow***



# PANELS AND EVENTS



VGL Founder and Executive Director, Jayson W. Browder, speaking on the Impact Stage at Forbes 30 Under 30 with Kathryn Dill - Careers Editor at CNBC Digital, Emily Núñez Cavness - Co-founder and CEO at Sword & Plough and Felix W. Ortiz - Founder and CEO at Viridis.

## EXCLUSIVE PANELS AND EVENTS

Our organization brings together the best and brightest minds in business, tech, government and non-profit sectors for our fellows.

- Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit
- Council on Foreign Relations
- Center for a New American Security
- Atlantic Council
- Columbia University
- New York University
- Fordham Law School
- George Washington University



VGL attends Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit with Editor of Forbes Magazine, Randall Lane



***"The feeling of innovation and dedication at the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit was palpable and infectious. I left Boston inspired by successful leaders and peers across multiple disciplines. It was impossible to leave and not feel optimistic about the future of our generation." - Margaret Jackson, 2017 Veterans in Global Leadership Fellow & M.A. Candidate at Georgetown University***

# CLASS OF 2017 MENTORSHIP

## RECRUITING A TOP MENTORSHIP CLASS

- The 2017 class of Fellows have access to 46 mentors
- The Mentors average ten years of work experience and represent experience with over 80 scholarships or fellowships
- With a 2:1 Mentor-to-Fellow ratio, each Fellow is matched with a Mentor whose background suits their needs but has access to a pool of 23 Mentors-At-Large to provide additional support

## SYSTEMATIZING THE PROGRAM

- VGL has moved beyond nascent startup and into a rigorous program. The Mentorship program has adapted by formalizing its processes to realize efficiency and effectiveness as the organization scales.
- In 2017, the Mentorship and Guidance Team digitized the Mentorship application process to streamline consideration of new Mentors and streamline Mentor data collection.
- For the first time, we conducted a data call and mid-year workshop to assess how Mentors are doing and provide additional support. The data will be critical toward evaluating the progress and results of the program.

## MEETING FELLOWS' INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

- In the 2017 class, the average Fellow is interested in 3 scholarship or fellowship programs
- Mentors and Fellows have generated action plans to ensure Fellows meet their goals for the year
- Halfway through the program, the program has facilitated over 200 hours of engagement between Mentors and Fellows

# WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



Veterans in Global Leadership Women's Initiative at the 4-day Leadership Seminar

## SPECIALIZED FOCUS

We recognize that women face specialized and specific challenges in leadership roles. The Women's Initiative provides fellows a space for awareness, discussion, and individually-tailored, actionable resources to combat these challenges. We take an intersectional approach to mentorship and focus on building organic relationships to ensure fellows have a comfortable space to have potentially difficult conversations.

## MONTHLY SEMINAR SERIES

The Women's Initiative program includes monthly calls with the current women-identifying fellows following a specialized training curriculum. Seminars follow a specific developmental trajectory designed to enhance female fellows awareness of themselves, their goals, and the complexities associated with being a woman in a leadership role.



## Cristine Starke

### Harry S. Truman Scholar

Cristine Starke transferred to the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in 2015 after serving five years in the Marine Corps as an Arabic linguist. During her time in the Marine Corps, she had one combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to the Horn of Africa which informs her academic focus and major of Regional Studies of the Islamic World. Cristine hopes to continue into a Master's Degree program in International Development to pair it with her security background with an intentional focus on gendered engagement in war and post-conflict zones. Cristine is the President of the Georgetown University Student Veteran's Association. Cristine will be marrying her fiancé, Bryce, the summer of 2017 and they currently share custody of their 2-year-old pug, Elliot.

***"Veterans in Global Leadership is a great network I was drawn to before I was even a fellow. This program has exposed me to some of the biggest change makers in the Veteran community and has provided a support system and endless resources for reaching my goals. Specifically, the mentorship structure within this program is unmatched, and I think that's the best resource you can provide to any group- veteran or not." - Cristine Starke***





## Roman Baca

### U.S. Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom Co-Founder of Exit12 Dance Company

Roman Baca is a Marine Iraq War Veteran and currently the Artistic Director of Exit12 Dance Company in NYC. Roman co-founded Exit12 Dance Company in 2007 and since then has choreographed several major works which communicate the experiences of people in conflict, and inspire visions of a better world. As a Teaching Artist, he has traveled to work in Erbil, Iraq and NYC public schools teaching young adults how to express their experience through choreography and non-verbal expression. Roman has also conducted Veteran/Civilian movement workshops that provide tools to aid veterans in the workplace and to bridge the civilian-veteran divide. He is a Leadership Fellow with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a 2014 Art and Healing Network Awardee, a recipient of a 2012 Fellowship from The Mission Continues, a 2009 producing and presenting grantee from AjkunBT, a 2010 Access DanceUSA Scholar from DanceNYC, a Brian Tippen Memorial Scholar and the Connecticut Wartime Veterans Medal award winner. Roman is a graduate of St. Mary's College of California.

***"As a veteran artist, I was anxious about how my work and vision would be supported. However, Veterans in Global Leadership clearly demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering all student veterans from a wide range of interests. I had the opportunity to access valuable resources, key leaders and a network that guided me throughout my VGL fellowship. With VGL's support and VGL's mentorship program, I was able to hone in on my true passion for leadership and achieve a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to the UK." - Roman Baca***



## Matt Mainzer

### U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Serbia

Matt Mainzer is a Marine and Afghanistan veteran currently studying Economics and Political Science at Pace University. He has continued to be active in the veteran community, serving as the Treasurer of Pace's Student Veterans Association chapter. Also active in Pace University's Model United Nations program, Matt has attended several model UN conferences domestically and internationally and served as a Head Delegate for two semesters. Matt has interned at the Middle East Institute, as a research assistant in their Center for Turkish Studies, and at Concordia, on their programming team, and volunteered in a disaster response and relief role in Nepal after the 2015 earthquakes. Matt is a recipient of Pace University's World Cultural Exchange Scholarship, a Pace University Top 100 Scholar for the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters, and a Truman Scholarship National Finalist. After completion of his Fulbright award in Serbia, he will attend John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

***"The idea of becoming involved in international relations and the US foreign policy realm was initially an extremely daunting idea. Veterans in Global Leadership was the perfect way to become exposed to career paths in this space and has been instrumental in my successes thus far. Not only has VGL opened my eyes to a myriad of opportunities that I had previously been unaware of, but I have leveraged the network and community I've found in VGL to take advantage of what is out there. VGL's mentorship program and community were essential parts of me gaining a Fulbright award to Serbia." – Matt Mainzer***



## Carole House

### Presidential Management Fellow White House Cybersecurity Taskforce

Carole House is a former Army captain who served as a chemical officer and a military intelligence officer until November 2014. She deployed with the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, from 2012 to 2013 as the brigade assistance chief of operations and intelligence collection manager in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After serving in the Army, Carole enrolled in Georgetown University's Security Studies Program, concentrating on U.S. National Security Policy and receiving a Master of Arts in Security Studies in 2017. Since 2016, Carole has served as both a Fellow and then a Mentor in Veterans in Global Leadership, a non-profit that provides veterans mentorship and guidance to continue their public service in fields of national security and domestic and foreign policy. She is currently a Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of Management and Budget's Cyber and National Security Unit.

***"I am so grateful to Veterans in Global Leadership for supporting me with a community of expertise and encouragement that helped me leverage my military experience as I started a career outside of the Army. VGL has kept me connected to a community that wants to bring about positive and transformative change, and I never cease being impressed by the passion exhibited by its fellows and leaders." - Carole House.***