VETERANS
IN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

CLASS OF 2018
VGL FELLOWS

CONOR ABBAMONTE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, BA IN COMPUTER SCIENCE | US NAVY

FOCUS AREA: ARTIFICIAL INTELLEGENCE

Currently an undergraduate at Columbia University studying Computer Science, Conor is a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as Military Police from 2012-2016 in roles including Kennel Support for a K9-Unit. Before transferring to Columbia University, Conor attended Montclair State University. There, Conor was elected as President of the MSU Student Veterans Association, served as the school mascot, and was later selected as one Top 100 student veterans in America for 2017 by Student Veterans of America. Conor is passionate about helping his fellow veterans succeed in academia and presently serves as a fellow with The Warrior-Scholar Project — a non-profit organization that helps veterans bridge the gap between military service and academia.

ERIC ALTAMURA

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, MA SECURITY STUDIES | US ARMY

FOCUS AREA: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Eric is a U.S. Army veteran and graduate student at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, studying for a Master's in Security Studies. From 4 years of active duty military service, his background includes leadership experience at multiple echelons within cavalry reconnaissance organizations. Alongside his studies, Eric has supported Department of Defense leadership through both federal and private sector work. As a consulting fellow, he has advised private-sector and non-profit clients to meet the unique needs of various defense and security agencies. Dedicated to the veteran community, Eric remains an active member of veterans' initiatives including Service to School and Veterans for American Ideals. Eric holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University.

OMAR ANDREWS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE(USM), BA POLITICAL SCIENCE | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC POLICY AND VETERANS ADVOCACY

Omar is a Marine Corps veteran awarded two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals during his service as an Infantryman from 2010 to 2016. While serving, he was in the Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team and 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. Majoring in Political Science at the University of Southern Maine, he also served as the President of the Student Veterans of America, USM chapter. Omar is also a member of the SVA Policy Liaison Program and was selected for the High Ground Veterans Advocacy Fellowship in January 2018.

TAMMY BARLET

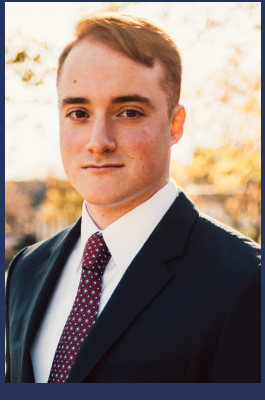
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, MA PUBLIC HEALTH | US COAST GUARD

FOCUS AREA: HEALTH POLICY

As an Operations Specialist Third Class Petty Officer, Tammy served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1995 to 2003 on board the USCGC Chase and VTS Houston - Galveston. Her most significant accomplishment was the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for an incident which could quickly have become a Homeland Security Threat. To continue her mission to serve others, she completed a Mission Continues fellowship as a Policy Associate at Student Veterans of America. The fellowship provided the opportunity to continue her involvement with student veterans and reinforce her confidence within the political arena. Her motivation continues as a semi-finalist candidate for Ms. Veteran America 2018, Northeast Field Organizer for Minority Veterans of America, and a board member of the Delaware County Veteran Memorial Association.

MATTHEW BARONCELLI

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, BA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES| US MARINES



FOCUS AREA: CHINESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Matthew is a United States Marine Corps veteran with multiple overseas deployments including humanitarian work in Chonburi, Thailand and Northern Territory, Australia. Currently, Matthew works with fellow veterans in the non-profit sector for veterans with combat and service related trauma. His passion lies in working with foreign nations and fellow human beings. He is an undergraduate at Columbia University majoring in East Asian Studies with a language in Mandarin Chinese. He continues to diversify his educational experience as a Warrior-Scholar Project alumnus at Yale University, and a research assistant in Formosa, Argentina where he studied Owl Monkeys with Proyecto Mirikiná. Upon completing his degree, he plans to continue his service to our nation at the Central Intelligence Agency.

KIRSTEN BATTOCCHIO

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, MA SECURITY STUDIES | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Kirsten Battocchio enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2009 and served in Iwakuni, Japan and as a Marine Security Guard at the U.S. Embassies in Sri Lanka, Uganda,and Barbados. She was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in May 2015 and enrolled in Manhattan College where she studied Government and international Studies. Additionally, Battocchio served as President of her school's Student Veterans Organization, represented NYC for Student Veterans of America as one of five Policy Liaisons in the nation, interned on Capitol Hill with Senator Blumenthal's office, and interned in Senator Schumer's NYC office. She graduated in May 2018 as Valedictorian of the undergraduate class and is currently pursuing her Master's degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Security Studies.

AROCH BOLANOS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, MS NEGOTIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION | US ARMY

FOCUS AREA: FINANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

Aroch Bolanos is an Army veteran that served two tours in Iraq. During his tours he served as a convoy security operative and as a military escort responsible for detainees that were in the ranks of Al Qaeda, the Taliban and other enemy combatants. Aroch is now currently pursuing a MS in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution and is the founder and first acting President for the Columbia Professional Warfighters student group. Aroch was awarded the national Mark Weber Legacy Award, by The Mission Continues for performing the best fellowship in the nation, due to assisting in ending Veterans Homelessness in Bergen County, NJ.

TY BROWN

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, MA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | US NAVY

FOCUS AREA: GLOBAL SECURITY

Ty is a MA candidate at American University's School of International Service. Her focus is in international security with a specific interest in weapons control. During her service in the U.S. Navy she primarily worked in navigation, but took rotations working in community relations, corrections, public affairs, youth mentorship, and security. After her service, Ty attended The University of Texas at San Antonio where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with her degree in Communications. As a student she worked in San Antonio for a local news station, City Council, and with a non-profit organization focusing on child education development. She also interned at U.S. Department of State in Washington DC in 2016, and in Bogota, Colombia in 2017, with plans to return this Fall.

KYLE BURKHOLDER

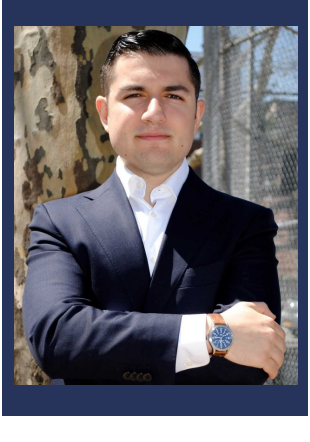
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, MA PUBLIC POLICY | US AIR FORCE

FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC POLICY

Kyle Burkholder is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served five years as an intelligence officer in roles as an analyst, operational planner, and project manager. He supported several operations in Africa, Europe, and Southwest Asia. Separately, Kyle co-founded and is a director of the Longonot Education Initiative—a non-profit organization that has worked to expand access to education for children in Kenya since 2011. Kyle is currently working towards a Master of Public Policy degree at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy where he was selected for the prestigious McCourt Scholars fellowship. He intends to pursue a career in international development after graduation. Previously, he received a BA in Political Science and a certificate in African Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011.

STEPHEN DEFERRARI

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, BA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES | US ARMY



FOCUS AREA: DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Stephen DeFerrari is a 5 year Army veteran, having served as a cryptologic linguist with the 101st Airborne Division. He deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve against the Islamic State in Iraq, earning accolades for his leadership and reporting. Leaving the Army, Stephen continued his service by coordinating the launching and running of an afterschool program for middle schoolers through City Year New York, an Americorps Program. After City Year, Stephen is continuing his studies at Fordham University, pursuing a BA in International Studies. His background as a Persian Farsi linguist and his experience overseas have led Stephen to pursue a career in international diplomacy in the State Department.

JONATHAN HENNEY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, BA ECONOMICS | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: LAW AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Jon is a US Marine Corps veteran where he served as a linguist. After graduating with an Associate of Arts in Farsi from the Defense Language Institute he served with 1st Marine Raider Support Battalion, deploying to Afghanistan with SOTF-81 in 2014. During his service he had perceived the consequences stemming from global societal inequities and the Great Recession, both of which galvanized him onto his current educational path. He currently studies Economics at Columbia University, is a mentor in the school's Mentors Program, and stays active in community volunteering efforts. He plans to pursue law school after graduation. He hopes to devote his time in a legal capacity in order to advocate for and help those who are incapable of helping themselves.

HANNAH HOLDEN

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, MBA | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

Hannah is a Marine Corps veteran who served as an Intelligence Analyst for five years, completing three tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, including a deployment as a member of a Female Engagement Team attached to Marine and Army Special Forces teams in rural Afghanistan. She earned her BA in Peace, Conflict, and Justice Studies with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies from DePaul University. Hannah completed her MBA with an emphasis in Global Social Sustainable Enterprise at Colorado State University, where she and her team developed a transitional employment food venture with the aim of supporting low-income single mothers in Northern Colorado. She is inspired by being a part of innovative teams that are working to address some of the world's biggest challenges and plans to use her military and entrepreneurial experience to drive social impact.

JESSICA HOUGHTON

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, MS NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY | US NAVY

FOCUS AREA: NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC POLICY

Jessica is a Navy veteran who completed three deployments on the USS George Washington with Squadron VAW-115 from 2010 to 2014. She was awarded Sailor of the Year at her command and two Navy achievement medals. Following active duty, Jessica served as an intelligence specialist in the Navy reserves from 2014 to 2017. She is an alumnus of American University, holding an MS in Terrorism and Homeland Security Policy and a BA in Political Science. In 2016 Jessica was selected as a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Labor and served as the Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training. She currently serves in the Defense Intelligence Agency where she works as an Operations Support Officer.

PARKER HOVIS

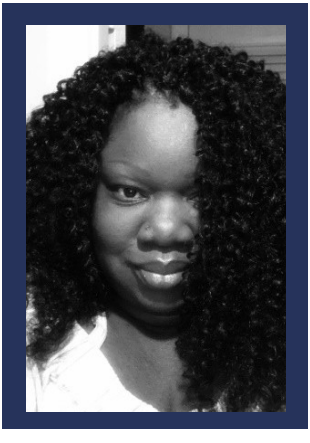
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, BA ANTHROPOLOGY ARCHAEOLOGY AND POLITICAL THEORY | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Currently an undergraduate studying Archaeological Anthropology and Political Theory at The School of General Studies at Columbia University in the City of New York, Parker Hovis is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who served with 3rd Battalion 11th Marines as a Forward Observer from 2011 to 2015. At Columbia, Parker is an active member of student organizations both related to his status as a Veteran as well as those that further his academic interest. In addition to his studies at Columbia, in 2018 Parker became the first undergraduate fellow at Columbia University for Veterans for American Ideals under Human Rights First, an organization that promotes human rights and uses our unique platform as veterans to reach new audiences of Americans.

TIFFANY JAMES

ALLEN UNIVERSITY, BS BIOLOGY | US ARMY



FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC HEALTH AND LAW

Tiffany is currently an undergraduate at Allen University studying Biology and Chemistry. She is a combat veteran who served 4 years active duty as Military Police with the 3rd ID of FT. Stewart and13 years in the National Guard. Her assignments included deployments to the Persian Gulf for Desert Eagle, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Her leadership skills have earned her the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and various coins. While serving in the National Guard, she was diagnosed with Cancer and Lupus. These experiences led to her passion in healthcare and Lupus awareness. She has been selected as one of the top Student Veterans by SVA. She is a mentor in the 5th Judicial Veterans Treatment Court.

GRETCHEN KLINGLER

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, DUAL BA IN ARABIC AND ANTHROPOLOGY | US AIR FORCE

FOCUS AREA: ANTHROPOLOGY, WOMEN'S STUDIES, MIGRATION STUDIES

Following six years active duty service in the United States Air Force, including two deployments, Gretchen Klingler chose to pursue her passion for cultural connection and understanding at The Ohio State university (OSU), majoring in Anthropology and Arabic while minoring in Women, Gender, and Sexuality studies. Her current research focuses on the experiences of Iraqi immigrant and refugee women and the insecurities they face during migration and settlement. Gretchen has been actively involved with OSU's Veteran Community Advocates Program, represented Ohio State at the 2018 McDonald Conference for Leaders of Character at West Point, and has participated in advocacy work in Washington, D.C. for Veterans for American Ideals and the US Global Leadership Coalition. Gretchen is also a 2017 Pat Tillman Military Scholar.

RACHEL KOZY

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, MBA | US NAVY

FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC SERVICE & SOCIAL INNOVATION

Rachel served the US Navy as a Healthcare Administrator from 2012 to 2017. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Logistics from Pennsylvania State University, a Masters of Science degree in Exercise Science from the Citadel, a Masters of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University, and is now a MBA candidate at Georgetown University. She is currently a consultant for Deloitte and serves on the Board of Directors for RESCUE, a 501(c)(3) committed to assisting veterans. Additionally, Rachel is the founder of The Empowered Women's Brunch group and dedicates her free time as a mentor for transitioning military. Rachel aspires to utilize her education and experience to develop innovative solutions to address the issues of unemployment and underemployment that plague our veterans.

REBEKAH LLOYD

REGENT UNIVERSITY, MPA | US ARMY

FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC POLICY & VETERAN ADVOCACY

Rebekah is a decorated nine-year veteran of the United States Army, during which time she served three overseas tours, including a deployment to Afghanistan with the 10 th Mountain Division, as a Satellite Communications Operator. In 2017, she founded HER Story, Inc., a nonprofit organization assisting women veterans, and serves as the Executive Director. Additionally, she serves on multiple veteran committees. As a doctoral student at Regent University's School of Business and Leadership, Rebekah is studying strategic leadership. She holds an MPA and a BS in Psychology. Rebekah is the recipient of multiple honors to include the title Ms. Veteran America 2017, 1 st Runner-Up and being selected as a 2016 MFRI of Purdue University's Focus Forward Fellow and a 2016 VFW & SVA National Legislative Fellow.

DUSTIN MALM

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, MA GOVERNMENT| US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Dustin is in his ninth year as an active duty Marine Cryptologic Linguist. He learned Levantine, Egyptian, and Modern Standard Arabic at the Defense Language Institute. After completing his studies at DLI, he cross-trained into analysis and eventually became an instructor in advanced analytics. Dustin received his Bachelor of Science in Intelligence from National Intelligence University in 2017. It was at NIU where Dustin found his academic calling in Russian foreign policy, which he continues to pursue at Johns Hopkins University with his Master of Arts in Government. Following conferral of his Masters, Dustin hopes to pursue a PhD in International Relations and then return to civil service.

ANTHONY MAXIE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, MA MANAGEMENT| US AIR FORCE

FOCUS AREA: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Anthony is an Acquisition Officer in the United States Air Force and a May 2018 graduate of Harvard University (Extension School). He enlisted in the Air Force in 2002 and later commissioned in 2010 as a distinguished graduate of AFROTC at Alabama State University. Prior to his current assignment, he served in various contracting, systems engineering, and program management positions at the functional, program office, and staff levels. He is passionate about urban economic empowerment, veterans issues and urban real estate development through revitalization initiatives. Anthony plans to pursue a doctorate in Public Policy.

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE

EMBRY RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY, BS TECHNICAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT | US AIR FORCE

FOCUS AREA: INSTITUTIONAL TRUST

Tim has served in both the U.S. Air Force and state Air National Guards. His accomplishments include over 8 years of distinguished service that range from planning logistics in Saudi Arabia and the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Program, to the implementation of transparent accountability systems with the Office of Inspector General at the National Guard Bureau and in Silicon Valley. Tim graduated Magna Cum Laude from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a B.S. in Technical Project Management and International Relations. He studied Russian Linguistics at the Defense Language Institute and maintains certification in Scrum and Conflict Resolution. Tim continues to support rescue operations in the California Air National Guard while applying to graduate programs in jurisprudence and international policy.

DAVID MERWIN

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, BA ARABIC | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT & VETERANS CASEWORK

Currently an undergraduate studying Arabic at The Ohio State University, David is a Marine Corps veteran who served with 2nd Battalion 8th Marines from 2011 to 2015, with a deployment conducting aerial raid missions in Afghanistan as an infantryman in 2013. Later, David deployed with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response as a fire team leader in 2015. After leaving the Military, David completed Middlebury College's Arabic immersion program in 2017. At The Ohio State University, David is president of the Guitar Club and foreign-language honorary society Phi Sigma Iota. In addition, he aids Syrian refugees acclimate in Ohio with Community Refugee & Immigration Services and World Relief. David also interns for US Congressman Steve Stivers, assisting veterans with military related casework.

OLEG OLEINIC

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, EHLS - NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM | US ARMY

FOCUS AREA: NATIONAL SECURITY AND GEOPOLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS

Oleg Oleinic served in the Air Force for ten years as a medic, arms control inspector, and military interpreter. His last assignment was with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Europe, where he supported senior Foreign Affairs Officers on international military inspections and represented the U.S. Government on NATO missions. He has a Master's in Intelligence Studies from the American Military University. Currently, he is consulting for federal agencies by leveraging his cultural expertise and advanced language proficiency in Russian, Romanian, Turkish, and German. His awards include a Gold Medal in a nationwide language competition and a critical language scholarship at Georgetown University. Pursuing a career in diplomacy, he aims to join the next generation of scholar-practitioners at CFR's International Affairs fellowship.

REBECCA PATTERSON

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND , MA PUBLIC HEALTH | US NAVY

FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND VETERAN HEALTH

Rebecca served six years in the Navy, including one deployment to the Persian Gulf. She was selected as 2008 NIOC GA Shore Junior Sailor of the Year. Following separation she earned her BS in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, where she served as president of Student Veterans of America at UWM and the inaugural veteran advocacy senator in Student Association. Rebecca then completed a service year at SVA National as an AmeriCorps VISTA, after which she began graduate school. She recently completed a fellowship with The Mission Continues, serves as a program representative in Graduate School Government, and remains connected to SVA through TerpVets. Rebecca intends to focus her career on veteran health outcomes related to environmental and occupational exposures during military service.

GINGER PETERMAN

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, MA INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | US ARMY

FOCUS AREA: HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGY

Currently a master's student in the iSchool, studying Information Science and Technology at Syracuse University, Ginger is a U.S. Army Veteran who served with the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, from 2007 to 2009, and was attached to 1-87th Infantry in Hawijah, Iraq. After leaving the Army, Ginger received academic and entrepreneurship awards, completed coursework for a Bioengineering Ph.D., and is pursuing Human-Computer Interface and data science-driven development of research instruments for studying resilience, TBI & PTSD, and telehealth in military and veteran populations. In Syracuse, Ginger is part of veteran organizations, and served as a university senator representing graduate students.

KEVIN RIVERS

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, MS OPERATIONS RESEARCH | US AIR FORCE

FOCUS AREA: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & PUBLIC POLICY

Kevin is an Acquisitions officer in the United States Air Force. He has served as a Project Manager for business enterprise systems, space control assets, and acquisition policy reform initiatives, along with Executive Officer roles. Kevin was selected as a 2016 Education with Industry (EWI) Fellow leading cybersecurity programs at La Quinta Inns & Suites corporate headquarters under the apprenticeship of the Chief Information Security Officer and C-level executives. Kevin was competitively selected in 2017 to be within the US Special Operation Command's Acquisition Ghost Platoon where he had a leading role in pioneering a Rapid Prototyping Event to accelerate advanced drone technology application. Kevin holds a BS in Management from the US Air Force Academy and a MS in Operations Research from Southern Methodist University.

MAGGIE SEYMOUR

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY, PH.D. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES| US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: SOFT POWER, COUNTERTERRORISM, AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Currently a graduate student at Mizzou studying Journalism and Strategic Communications, Maggie spent ten years as an active duty intelligence officer with the U.S. Marine Corps successfully completing three tours overseas. As part of her transition to the reserves, Maggie ran across the United States raising $100,000 for veterans, Gold Star families and special needs athletes. Her doctoral research focuses on the U.S. use of soft power in counterterrorism strategy.

EMMA STOKIEN

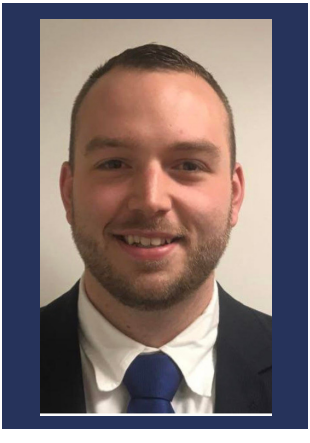
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, MA SECURITY STUDIES | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY & NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

J. Emma Stokien is pursuing a master's degree in Security Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, D.C. with a focus on international security. Emma earned her commission as a Marine Corps officer in December 2012 and served as an intelligence officer with the Third Marine Division G-2 on Okinawa, Japan. In 2016, Emma was selected for a tour at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Transitioning to her civilian career, Emma is looking forward to joining the Office of Enforcement Analysis at the U.S. Department of Commerce this fall. Emma continues to serve the veteran community through Service to School and Veterans for American Ideals.

WESLEY WILSON

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, BA ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP| US ARMY



FOCUS AREA: HUMAN RESOURCES AND OPERATIONS

Wesley Wilson is an Army veteran who served five years as a Military Police Officer. Wesley served overseas in South Korea and at the United States Military Academy at West Point as a Team Leader and Operations Manager. He earned an A.A. degree from American Military University in General Studies, graduating with honors. Wesley is now a senior at Fordham University studying Organizational Leadership. He was placed on the Dean's List for the 2017 academic year with a 4.0 GPA and is the current President of the Fordham Veterans Association. In 2017, Wesley was selected as a High Ground Veteran Advocacy fellow. His work was featured in an opinion-editorial with Task and Purpose, as well as Fordham's local publication.

DYLAN ZUCCHERINO

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,BA POLITICAL SCIENCE | US MARINES

FOCUS AREA: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Dylan is currently studying Political Science at Columbia University and previously served in the Marine Corps with the 3rd ANGLICO from 2013 to 2016. He deployed to Kuwait and Jordan as a Forward Observer, training and assisting Kuwaiti and Jordanian pilots. During his military tenure Dylan became a Black Belt Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor. After leaving the military, he became a student fitness instructor on Semester at Sea, a university program with 600 students that travels to 13 countries. Dylan trained and maintained the health and wellness for the students on board. While at Columbia University he also co-runs an exercise camp for young professionals in New York City.