



THE BUSH SCHOOL INTELLIGENCE STUDIES PROGRAM

The Bush School has produced more than 300 graduates for careers in the intelligence profession to date

When the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University was established in 1997, President George H.W. Bush strongly desired to have a concentration in intelligence studies as part of the curriculum. Professor James Olson uses his lengthy career as a CIA undercover operative to teach intelligence. Student interest was strong and over 300 graduates have successfully completed the program. Today, the program is considered a top school for U.S. intelligence agencies and maintains practitioner expertise from the CIA, FBI, NSA, and U.S. military, as well as the facilities to discuss and store classified information.

What sets the Bush School apart is its focus on practitioner-based teaching. With a professional focus for its intelligence courses, the school had confidence that classes are best taught by intelligence career professionals. Other graduate programs in intelligence studies are more theoretical and emphasize an academic approach to intelligence studies. The Bush School is different by design: it combines a well-rounded academic curriculum with faculty who have practical, real-world experience in covert operations, direct action counter-terrorist operations, surveillance and detection, counterintelligence, interrogations, investigations, hostage negotiations, crisis action planning, and all source intelligence analysis and collection.

“The Bush School’s intelligence studies professors had a profound impact on me, my professional development, and my overall career. They consistently provided tactical knowledge, hands-on learning styles, and firsthand experiences that have driven me toward my career successes today.”

Former Intelligence
Studies Student



PROFESSOR JAMES OLSON USES HIS LENGTHY CAREER AS A CIA UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE TO TEACH INTELLIGENCE STUDIES AT THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE.



Professor James Olson received his law degree from the University of Iowa. He is a Professor of the Practice at the Bush School, where he has been teaching courses on intelligence and counterintelligence for the past twenty years. He served over 30 years in the Directorate of Operations of the Central Intelligence Agency,

mostly overseas in clandestine operations. In addition to several foreign assignments, he was Chief of Counterintelligence at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Professor Olson has been awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit, the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the Donovan Award, and several Distinguished Service Citations. He is the recipient of awards from the Bush School and The Association of Former Students for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Olson is the author of *Fair Play: The Moral Dilemmas of Spying* and *To Catch a Spy: The Art of Counterintelligence*. Prior to his career in the CIA, he served in the U.S. Navy, where he attained the rank of lieutenant commander.

“When a former president calls on you, your answer isn’t, ‘Yes.’ It’s, ‘Yes, sir,’ ... We didn’t know much about Texas A&M except that they played good football and had a legendary Corps of Cadets, ... We were so impressed by the faith, honor, and traditions built into the university... We went back to headquarters and said, ‘We’re going to Texas A&M.’”

JAMES OLSON
Professor of the Practice,
Intelligence Studies

1 | James Olson was just finishing law school after serving in the Navy when he received a call from a CIA recruiter, asking him to serve as an undercover operative.

2 | Jim and Meredith Olson welcoming President Bush to the classroom.





MICHAEL HOWELL | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE

Professor Howell received two undergraduate degrees from Texas A&M University’s Mays Business School. He earned a master’s degree with distinction from the United States Naval War College in National Security and Strategic Studies. Currently, he is a professor of the practice at the Bush School, where he teaches courses on terrorism. He served for more than 23 years in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), where he served in the Denver and Dallas offices and completed multiple overseas assignments

in the Middle East and North Africa. Professor Howell served on the Dallas Division SWAT team, as an interrogator on the High Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) and as the vice president of the FBI Agent’s Association (FBIAA). He has taught police and FBI courses on counterterrorism, SWAT operations, interview & interrogation, and criminal case investigations. He is a recent recipient of the FBI Medal of Excellence.

“I can think of no greater honor than teaching the next generation of intelligence professionals. The students at the Bush School impressed me from day one. I can say without a doubt that the future of our country is in great hands.”

– MICHAEL HOWELL



KATHERINE T. WEARY | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE

Professor Weary received her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University and her master’s degree from George Washington University. Kathie was also one of Jim Olson’s former students. She is an Assistant Professor of the Practice at the Bush School teaching courses on writing, analysis, and intelligence briefings. Kathie had a career at the National Security Agency (NSA), serving as a senior intelligence analyst in the Office of International Security Issues and as an integrated analyst at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s (ODNI) National Intelligence Council (NIC). Her professional education includes coursework at NSA’s National Cryptologic

School and CIA’s Kent School on advanced analytics, structured analytic techniques, advanced approaches to critical thinking, writing for the President’s Daily Brief, and telecommunications technologies. Prior to her time at NSA, Kathie served in various roles and positions at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in the George W. Bush administration, the U.S. State Department, and the Office of President George H.W. Bush in Houston. She received team and individual awards from the Director of NSA for her support on several crisis efforts throughout her career and was recognized by ODNI for her service.

“I have found my new mission—teaching these eager and bright young men and women who will go on to public service and training them in analytics, guiding their entry into the intelligence community—and these students are my drivers.”

– KATHERINE T. WEARY

FUTURE LEADERS



With the ever-changing global landscape, the need for intelligence professionals to protect our country and secure our interests abroad is even greater. The intelligence program at the Bush School remains the most popular program for both students and future employers to identify, recruit and develop talent.

Bush School students seeking a **Master of International Affairs** degree in the **Intelligence as an Instrument of Statecraft** concentration within the National Security and Diplomacy track are required to take Professor Olson's course, "The Role of Intelligence" as a pre-requisite, and then select a minimum of two additional course offerings from topics related to terrorism, transnational security, national security law, analytical tradecraft, counterintelligence, and cyber. Additionally, every student is required to complete a summer internship, relevant to the intelligence profession or conduct a language immersion experience abroad, prior to graduation.



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Experience and Support

The Bush School's ability to produce public servants is second-to-none. Our students come to the Bush School to fulfill their noble calling of service. We invite you to come experience their dedication, drive, and desire to serve firsthand by visiting with students and faculty on campus, sitting in on a class, or attending one of our many distinguished speaker events. With your support, we can fulfill the vision of our namesake, President George H.W. Bush, for the Intelligence Studies program at Texas A&M University.

3 | Kathie Weary with George H.W. Bush

4 | Mike Howell with FBI Director, Robert Muller

Expansion to address the needs of the future

Our current course waitlist is double the number of students enrolled in the intelligence concentration. The intelligence community has likewise increased the demand for intelligence professionals beyond the classic human collectors and analysts, to more professionals with expertise in technical, financial, and cyber disciplines.

To adequately meet the increased demand, the Bush School is working to expand its current capability over the next five years with the following:

- ★ Additional practitioners-in-residence to meet increased student enrollment
- ★ Formalization of the Distinguished Intelligence Fellows program to maintain currency with emerging security threats
- ★ Addition of adjunct instructors to expand course offerings into new high-demand intelligence disciplines
- ★ Increased high-impact learning experiences for development of our students

For more information on how to support the Intelligence Studies Program contact:

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If interested in learning more about admission to the Master of International Affairs to study Intelligence, contact our admissions office at:

bushschooladmissions@tamu.edu