Picking Up Momentum

CASP welcomes new Arctic Scholar, broadens partnerships and continues to support the Academy and the greater Coast Guard.

By Cara Condit ’04, Executive Director, CASP

Now in its fifth year as a research institution and operational think-tank, the Center for Arctic Study & Policy (CASP) continues to pick up momentum. Recognized widely for high quality results, CASP’s scholarship efforts enable cadet learning and organizational exposure, increase operational competence, and enhance domestic and international cooperation. Just in the last six months, CASP presented at eight different venues, published two articles and two reports, initiated three new research projects, embraced two new collaboration opportunities, hosted six VIPs, and developed three new cadet enrichment opportunities, including the 2018-2019 Arctic Advanced Research Project with the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM). Most notably:

• CASP hosted ADM Karl Schultz; Mr. Hreinn Pálsson, Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Iceland; and Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

• CASP initiated a documentary to tell the Coast Guard’s Cold War Era icebreaking story and support future Polar Security Cutter acquisitions.

• CASP completed the first phase of an EU Horizon 2020 grant to develop an Arctic SAR Network in the North Atlantic.

Of particular interest, and a first for the Coast Guard Academy, CASP sent a cadet to Antarctica to participate in Operation DEEP FREEZE. With the tremendous help of Joint Task Force - Support Forces Antarctica, the National Science Foundation, and CDR Bill Woityra (Executive Officer of USCGC POLAR STAR), and financial support from CG-5PW, ENS Marshall Reyburn ’19 gave up leave to spend his winter holiday on the world’s southernmost continent. “It was truly a character-building experience that will benefit me both as a person and as an officer,” he said.
holiday on the world’s southernmost continent. The annual resupply mission to McMurdo Station is a joint military logistics operation in support of the ongoing scientific research in Antarctica. ENS Reyburn joined cadets from the other service academies to learn about the important role of the U.S. presence in Antarctica, as well as, the complicated coordination of air, land, and sea assets needed to ensure continued operations in the harshest of environmental conditions. ENS Reyburn returned from this experience with a deep appreciation of Antarctica, the scientists who work there, and our inter-service partners who provide the necessary support. “It was truly a character-building experience that will benefit me both as a person and as an officer,” said ENS Reyburn.

Across the CGA campus, CASP supported two faculty members from the Science Department, Dr. Jessica Morgan and Dr. Lucy Vlietstra, to present at the International Arctic Safety Conference at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Norway. Their research compares historical Automatic Identification System (S-AIS) information derived from three commercial satellite providers to understand how technological constraints may affect situational awareness in the Arctic maritime domain. Alongside a talk from LCDR Jeremy McKenzie about the Barents Sea, their presentation contributed greatly to CASP’s international reputation for advanced, impactful, and highly relevant research.

Conducting original research on the expanding significance of Greenland in Arctic geopolitics is a significant achievement for the four First Class Cadets (ENS K. Hughley, ENS M. Reyburn, ENS M. Nagle, and ENS S. Ambrose) on the 2018-2019 Arctic Advanced Research Project. Much of this area of research was not previously explored. With an initial trip to Denmark to discuss Greenland’s expanding significance in the region with Greenlandic and Danish Academic experts, and an opportunity to meet with USEUCOM’s Arctic Advisor, CDR Wes Hester ’98, in Stuttgart, the cadets were quickly immersed in the topic. The strength of this project was not only the original research project the cadets designed and executed but also the willingness of those at USEUCOM to actively involve themselves in the cadets’ professional growth. The feedback from USEUCOM on the cadets’ final product will continue to inspire them during the next steps of their Coast Guard journey. “The research they did for us far exceeded my expectations and will be very important for the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable,” said CDR Hester.

With a persistent passion for this area of study, and support from both Coast Guard operators and organizational leadership, CASP will continue to tackle pressing long-term and complex issues with academic independence and a depth of scholarship. CASP’s upcoming engagements and scholarly work are available at www.uscg.edu/casp/.

CASP Hails and Farewells

The Government Shutdown last winter reinforced the biggest strength of CASP, and that is the people, especially the Class of ’65 Champions who remain closely involved, the external Fellows who offer guidance and scholarship, and the support CASP enjoys from both Academy and Coast Guard leadership. A heartfelt extension of gratitude goes to VADM Roger Rufe ’65 (USCG, ret), CAPT Lawson Brigham ’70 (USCG, ret), CDR Jim Ellis ’66 (USCG, ret) and CDR Craig Allen (USCG, ret) who were critical
Introducing Class of ’65 Arctic Scholar
Dr. Barry Zellen

With a PhD from the University of Lapland, in Finland, and over 30 years of writing, researching, and living above the Arctic Circle, Dr. Zellen brings a wealth of knowledge and a genuine excitement to the classroom. Dr. Zellen’s work on tribal-state relations, sovereignty, and geopolitical security led to the development of an inspiring course titled “Globalization and the Emerging Arctic,” which introduced a group of cadets to a fresh perspective on the Coast Guard’s role in the Arctic. In addition to teaching and developing new courses on polar issues, Dr. Zellen has been actively continuing his research, writing, workshop participation, and international collaboration. His latest publications include two chapters in the forthcoming (September 2019) Palgrave Handbook of Arctic Policy and Politics.

As a subject matter expert, Dr. Zellen has been invited to serve as a co-editor and article contributor to a special issue (Issue No. 61) of The International Journal of Canadian Studies on the topic of Arctic Policy in Canada: Forces of Inclusion and Exclusion. Dr. Zellen’s conference paper and journal article “The Globalization of Co-Management: Indigenous Permanent Participants, Non-Arctic Observer States and Emergent Alliances and Coalitions on the Arctic Council” will be presented at the 25th Biennial Conference of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States. Dr. Zellen has been invited by Korea Polar Research Institute to contribute an article to a special issue of The Polar Journal based on a paper Dr. Zellen presented at the Arctic Circle 2019 China Forum, “Resource Co-management and the Globalization of Arctic Governance: The Long Journey from Arctic Colonialism to Collaborative Multilateral Arctic Governance.” Publication of the Polar Journal special issue is planned for 7 May 2020. In addition, Dr. Zellen will present “Global Co-Management and the Emergent Arctic: The Arctic Council’s East Asian Observer States and Indigenous Permanent Participants – Opportunities for Engagement and Collaboration,” at the 12th Polar Law Symposium at the Institute for Marine...
and Antarctic Studies in December 2019 and represent CASP on a panel at the ISA 2020 Annual Convention on “Managing Great Power Competition in the Arctic” chaired by the Center for War Studies, University of Southern Denmark.

Amidst final grades and abstract submissions, Dr. Zellen recently returned from a trip to Japan, where he extended CASP’s network on areas of mutual interest including East Asian Arctic strategy and policy, Arctic shipping and maritime issues, Arctic international relations and diplomacy, sub-state and non-state actors in the Arctic, the role of observer states on the Arctic Council, as well as Japan’s strategy of dual-containment of both China and Russia in the North Pacific. At Hokkaido University’s Arctic Research Center, Kobe University’s Polar Cooperation Research Center, the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the National Institute of Polar Research, Dr. Zellen presented some of his research and explored future research collaborations. In addition to his outreach efforts in Japan, Dr. Zellen has also broadened CASP’s reach within Singapore. In March 2019, the Singapore Maritime Institute hosted a workshop for Dr. Zellen to exchange views and discuss Singapore’s role as an observer state on the Arctic Council in addition to its experience with managing the Strait of Malacca with neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia, a possible model for joint management of the Arctic Ocean. In a short amount of time, Dr. Zellen has already contributed greatly to CASP’s missions. With significant grant experience, he is helping to shape CASP’s research agenda for the next five years while also assuming a leading role in the Arctic Advanced Research Project, and providing new opportunities for cadets in and out of the classroom.