

CROFT ALUMNI



A GATEWAY FROM MISSISSIPPI TO THE WORLD

The Croft Institute offers an exciting path for undergraduates at the University of Mississippi who want to expand their horizons. Over the last 19 years, the highly selective international studies major has graduated no less than 585 students that have gone on to leave their mark and embark on a fulfilling career in the globalized world of today.

There is no “typical” Croft graduate. The breadth and the flexibility of the international studies major leads our graduates to pursue a wide range of careers. As they acquire professional experience in the workplace and deepen their expertise by pursuing graduate studies, many alumni have exciting roles that at first glance have little connection to their training as international studies major—but these careers all started at Croft.



CODY LEBLANC

Class of 2011

CURRENT POSITION

**Senior Associate Director
of Digital Strategy** for APCO
Worldwide in Paris, France

"The Croft Institute was the bridge between Mississippi and a wider world of new subjects, countries and cultures that fed my curiosity and led to the international career path I'm following today. Colleagues and faculty at Croft taught me to value true learning through trial-and-error over simple grades, and they have become steadfast friends and mentors throughout my career."

CAREER HISTORY

**Senior Consultant of Digital
Strategy** for APCO Worldwide
in Washington, DC, 2017–2018

Consultant of Digital Strategy
for APCO Worldwide in
Washington, DC, 2016–2017

Digital Media Strategist for
Broadcasting Board of Governors
in Washington, DC, 2014–2015



ERIN SINGLETON

Class of 2011

CURRENT POSITION

**Senior Manager of
Global Marketing** for
BCD Travel Advito Division
in Washington, DC

“Croft was instrumental to my both academic and professional development. The level of Chinese language proficiency that I reached while studying at Croft is the reason I was able to find a job in Shanghai after graduation and begin my career in marketing and communications in one of the most exciting cities in the world. During my time at Croft—I developed a network of both peers and professors that I am still in contact with today, nearly a decade after graduating. I am truly grateful for my time there.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES M.A.
in International Affairs from Johns
Hopkins University, 2012

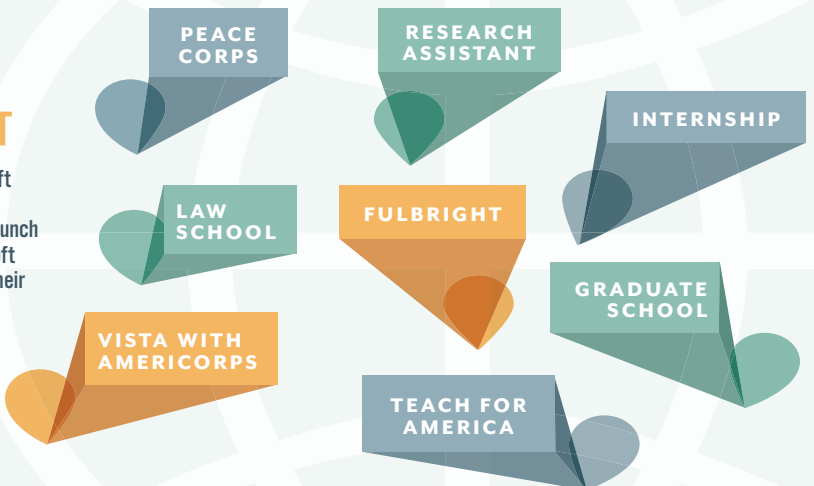
CAREER HISTORY

Marketing Manager for R3 in
Shanghai, China, 2015–2016 and
Washington, DC, 2016–2018

Asia Communications Specialist
for Kyocera AVX Division in
Shanghai, China, 2012–2015

FIRST YEAR OUT

A degree from Croft provides endless opportunities to launch a career. Many Croft graduates begin their careers with:



NOTABLE CROFT GRADUATE PROGRAMS



ABROAD

Institut Barcelona d'Estudis
Internacionals

King's College London

London School of Economics
and Political Science

McGill University

Nanjing University

Portuguese Catholic University

Sciences Po

Université de Strasbourg

University of British Columbia

University of Edinburgh

University of Geneva

University of London

University of Oxford



RYAN EZELLE

Class of 2013

CURRENT POSITION

Asylum Officer in the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate for the (USCIS) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Arlington, VA, since 2018

“Today, I use the knowledge base and skills I cultivated at Croft every single day in my current role as an Asylum Officer and attorney. Knowing the history of racial division in Central America, or the changing role of religion in China, provides me with the background to research, interview, and adjudicate the cases of people fleeing persecution around the world. I can’t imagine a program that would have better prepared me for where I am today, or have instilled a greater curiosity in the world.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

J.D. from the University of Virginia, 2017

CAREER HISTORY

Robert F. Kennedy Public Service Fellow with the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 2017–2018

English Teacher for Fulbright U.S. Student Award in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 2013–2014

ALUMNI PROFILES

MASTERS

Asbury Theological University

Brown University

George Washington University

Johns Hopkins University

MIT- Massachusetts Institute of Technology

National Intelligence University

New York University

Princeton University

Sotheby's Institute of Art

Texas A&M University

Tufts University

University of California, Berkeley

University of Notre Dame

Yale University

LAW

American University

Columbia University

Duke University

Georgetown University

Harvard University

Stanford University

University of California

University of Virginia

MEDICINE

Vanderbilt University

Washington and Lee University

Emory University

Rutgers University

Tulane University



UNITED STATES

TABITHA BAILEY

Class of 2007

CURRENT POSITION

Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for TransAtlantic Petroleum Ltd. in Dallas, TX



“The Croft Institute allowed me to hone my writing and analytical skills, develop a deep understanding of business and economics in the global marketplace, and appreciate the political, economic, and social dynamics of other cultures.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES J.D. from Vanderbilt University, 2010

CAREER HISTORY

Attorney in Corporate and Securities Practice for Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in Dallas, TX, 2013–2019

Associate Attorney in Corporate and Securities Practice for Haynes and Boone in Dallas, TX, 2010–2013

GRADUATE DEGREES

49%
Masters

22%
J.D.

8%
MBA

8%
Post-B.A.
Undergraduate

7%
Doctorate

3%
M.D.

3%
Certificate

CROFT ALUMS AROUND THE WORLD

Croft students are employed world-wide. The blue dots on this map are a snapshot of where Croft graduates have landed from 2001 to present. Four alumni are highlighted, one from each focus region: East Asia, Middle East, Latin America, and Europe.



MATTHEW ARCHER *Class of 2011*

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor at the Copenhagen Business School in Frederiksberg, Denmark

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from Yale University in New Haven, CT, 2018; M.S. in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, 2012



JESSICA HOLST *Class of 2007*

CURRENT POSITION

Deputy Country Representative for USAID: United States Agency for International Development in Bogotá, Columbia

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University, 2010



VERONIKA ROZMAHELOVA

Class of 2009

CURRENT POSITION

AVP Data Protection for
Bank ABC in Manama, Bahrain

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.A. in Urban and Social Policy,
Management, International Media
and Technology from Columbia
University in New York City, NY, 2013



ALISON BARTEL

Class of 2015

CURRENT POSITION

Asia Program Officer for
Internews in Bangkok, Thailand

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.A. in Global Communication
from George Washington
University in Washington,
DC, 2017

CAREER PATHS

NOTABLE CROFT EMPLOYERS

CONSULTING/BUSINESS

APCO Worldwide	Edleman
Bank of America	Endava
Berkeley Research Group, LLC	EY
Bloomberg BNA	Gartner
Control Risks	KPMG LLP
Deloitte	PwC US
	ZWJ Investment Counsel

GOVERNMENT

AmeriCorps
Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Defense Intelligence Agency
Federal Bureau of Agency
Peace Corps
United States Air Force
USAID
United States Department of Homeland Security
United States Department of State



SCOTTY JIMENEZ

Class of 2007

CURRENT POSITION

Spanish Teacher at Lafayette High School in Oxford, MS

“Croft helped me appreciate the importance of travel and exposure to those cultures not of my own. Prior to Croft, I had phenomenal high school teachers that broadened my perspective through foreign language and comparative politics coursework. In my classroom, I hope to reinforce Croft’s mission to my high school students by inspiring them to become global citizens and lifelong language learners through my passion for the Spanish language as well as the cultures of the countries that speak it.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.Ed. from the University of Mississippi, 2009

CAREER HISTORY

Spanish Teacher at Madison Central High School in Madison, MS, 2008–2013

Mississippi Teacher Corps in Jackson, MS, 2007–2008

ALUMNI PROFILES

NON PROFIT

Global Fund	Educators
International Organization for Migration	Teach for America
Mississippi Center for Justice	The Advocacy Project
Mississippi Innocence Project	United Nations Foundation
NAFSA: Association of International	Washington Office on Latin America
	World Resources Institute

CORPORATE

LuLu Lemon	Tesla
Leidos	Uber
Lockheed Martin	

LAW

Baker Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz
Balch & Bingham LLP
Bloomberg Law
Booz Allen Hamilton
Butler Snow LLP
Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP
Williams & Connolly LLP



JOHN MARTIN

Class of 2009

CURRENT POSITION

Resident of General Surgery
for the School of Medicine
at Indiana University in
Indianapolis, IN

“Croft has proved indispensable to my career in medicine. Insights into the social and economic determinants of health from my Croft thesis have helped me make better-informed care decisions, and they continue to inspire the ongoing legislative advocacy work I do on behalf of my patients. The ability to communicate directly with my Spanish language patients provides both them and me additional reassurance and understanding during times of enormous stress. And the level to which Croft developed my research and writing skills has directly contributed to my early success at getting published in my academic field.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.D. from Tulane
University, 2015

ADVOCACY WORK

NOTABLE CROFT OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate Fellow for the Council of Women World Leaders

Human Rights Intern for the US Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia

American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai

Intern for the Carter Center

Intern for the Institute for International Public Policy

Intern for World Relief

Peace Fellow for Children Peace Initiative Kenya

Public Policy & Advocacy

Intern for ACLU of Mississippi

Intern for the Embassy of the Czech Republic



ELIZABETH YOUNGER

Class of 2012

CURRENT POSITION

Foreign Affairs Officer for the United States Department of State in Washington, DC

“Communication and critical thinking are key to diplomacy, and the Croft Institute equipped me with both. My work often involves finding solutions to the same geopolitical challenges I studied at Croft; in addition, the core writing and presentation skills I acquired there have helped me advance at every stage of my career. The thesis process in particular showed me the importance of conducting thorough research and constructing well-reasoned arguments. I’m grateful to each of my Croft professors for imparting the historical knowledge and practical skills I use every day to craft and conduct foreign policy.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.A. in Security Studies from George Washington University, 2014

CAREER HISTORY

Foreign Affairs Officer for the United States Department of State in Washington, DC, 2014

Intern for the American Action Forum in Washington, DC, 2013

Program Intern for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC, 2012–2013



MARC CARR

Class of 2004

CURRENT POSITION

Manager of Changemakers North America for Ashoka in Washington, DC

“The Croft Institute was a gateway to the international experience that I needed to launch my career in international development. The experiences I gained during the program helped me develop global leadership capabilities such as empathy, humility, and a willingness to lead from behind.”

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

M.A. in Social Enterprise from American University, 2015;
MBA from Webster University, 2012

CAREER HISTORY

Trip Leader to South Africa with LearnServe International in Washington, DC, 2018–Present

Program Manager for Impact Hub DC in Washington, DC, 2016–2018

Sales, Marketing, and Operations Manager for Avis in Accra, Ghana, 2011–2013

These twelve profiles of our alumni offer only a glimpse of the variety of careers that Croft graduates have pursued. If you are interested in reading more about the careers of our alums, please visit croft.olemiss.edu/alumni/alumni-profiles. Even after looking through dozens of these profiles, you will notice that it is rather difficult to categorize a “Croft career.” To our mind, that is a distinctive strength: the alumni of the Croft Institute continue to grow professionally and know how to pursue a good opportunity when they see one.

Greetings from the porch!

CROFT INSTITUTE

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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