

Jordan Daniels

This fall I will begin my junior year as a transfer student to the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. My intended major is International Politics with a concentration in International Security. I hope to also keep up my French language skills and continue my very modest progress in Arabic.

My interest in international affairs is about as old as am I and has gone through almost as many phases. In high school I was convinced I was going to be a peacekeeper for the United Nations; by freshman year of college I wanted to become a lawyer and use international law to bring to justice multinational corporations; and now I have surprised myself by settling quite comfortably in the national security field.


Previously, I had shied away from the security side of international affairs that I saw as reserved for war hawks and jingoist conservatives. But working with Zeyno Baran at the Hudson Institute changed that. A Muslim woman among the most conservative in her field with respect to Muslim integration in the West but among the most liberal with respect to gender issues, Ms. Baran forced me to shed some of my ideological prejudices.

Today the two areas that interest me most are intelligence and military strategy. In the immediate future, I want to be out in the field—maybe as a counterintelligence agent or a translator. Long-term, I see myself serving in a more strategic role perhaps as a member of the National Security Council or within the intelligence leadership.

Transferring to the School of Foreign Service is not only a personal accomplishment but a testament to my commitment to a career in national security. In transferring, I am forfeiting a full scholarship to the University of Maryland. To me it is well worth it. SFS has one of the most specialized undergraduate curricula in international relations, it will better prepare me for a profession in national security, and, put simply, I believe it will make me much happier.

But my family should not have to shoulder the cost of my decision and I am doing everything I can to assume that responsibility myself. Throughout the summer I worked in a number of odd jobs—from waitressing to tutoring—which have helped me save up. But during the academic year I want to focus on school. The Jim and Anna Hyonjoo Lint Scholarship would allow me to get the most out of Georgetown rather than worrying about finances. It would open up opportunities like rowing for the Georgetown women's team, serving on the School of Foreign Service Student Council, or fully investing myself in my upcoming internship with the Homeland Security Advisory Council—all of which would develop my mental and physical strength and ultimately prepare me for a career in national security.

I request this Essay to be published on the Lint Center for National Security Studies, Inc website with my name published.



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