

**RETIREMENT OF SUSAN M. PETERSON  
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

Susan M. Peterson received her B. A., *summa cum laude*, from Saint Lawrence University, in May 1983 with a major in Government (Honors). Professor Peterson earned her M.A. and M. Phil. in Political Science from Columbia University. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science in February 1992 from Columbia University. Professor Peterson joined the faculty of William & Mary in 1994 as an Assistant Professor of Government, before she was promoted to Associate Professor in 1998, and Professor in 2004. Professor Peterson has been the Wendy and Emery Reves Professor of Government and International Relations since 2007.

Professor Peterson has served William & Mary in countless ways. She was Dean for Undergraduate Studies in Arts & Sciences from 2007 to 2011 and the Dean for Educational Policy in Arts & Sciences from 2005 to 2007. Professor Peterson was Chair of the Government Department from 2020 to 2023 and Director of the International Relations Program from 2014 to 2017. She was Co-Director of the Global Research Institute from its creation in 2007 (as the Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations) to 2013, and again from 2017 to 2020. Peterson has been on numerous university and Arts & Sciences committees, including chair of the Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee; the Nominations and Elections Committee, Internationalization Committee, International Studies Committee, Faculty Assembly where she served on the Executive Committee, and numerous university-wide search committees. As chair of the Government Department, she was Co-Chair of the Committee on Chairs and Program Directors and co-facilitator of an orientation group for new department chairs and program directors. In addition to her committee work, Professor Peterson also has been a highly effective, long-standing member of numerous committees within the Government Department, including the Evaluation/Personnel Committee, Curriculum Committee, Diversity Committee, and numerous departmental search committees.

Professor Peterson has also been active within the political science profession. She served as Council Secretary of the American Political Science Association; on the International Security Diversity Task Force and the Advisory Board of the Global Health Section of the International Studies Association; on the Academic Advisory Council of America Abroad Media and the editorial boards of *Security Studies* and the *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*, and as Editor-in-Chief of *Security Studies*.

Within the wider community, Professor Peterson was a founding member of Journey to Asylum, a local organization helping families navigate the process of seeking asylum in the United States; Chair of the Board of the Williamsburg AIDS Network; on the Peninsula AIDS Foundation Board, and on the Editorial Board of *Our Own Community Press*, then one of the oldest gay and lesbian newspapers in the country.

As a scholar, Professor Peterson's research interests and publications have focused on international security, U.S. foreign policy, and the intricate relationships between domestic politics and international conflict. Her book "Crisis Bargaining and the State: The Domestic Politics of International Conflict" remains an important text in the field, influencing how academics and practitioners alike understand the dynamics of international crises.

Professor Peterson has made significant contributions to our understanding of the discipline of International Relations. The co-authored "Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide in International Relations" is a seminal text at the intersection of scholarly work and policy-making. As a Principal Investigator on the Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Project at W&M, she has contributed substantially to

the understanding of how international relations theories are taught and utilized in the policy realm. Her articles in leading journals and participation in diverse scholarly volumes have marked her as a thought leader in the theory and practice of international politics.

The major focus of Professor Peterson's career, has been her unwavering commitment to William & Mary students. Her passion for teaching has remained undiminished throughout her tenure, fostering generations of informed, thoughtful citizens. Courses such as those on international security and U.S. foreign policy have been transformative experiences for many, thanks to her dynamic teaching style and rigorous academic standards.

Another hallmark of Professor Peterson is her exceptionally effective out-of-class mentoring. Colleagues and students alike cherish interactions with Professor Peterson, which have been deeply impactful due to her keen intellect, wisdom, understanding, and compassion. Her open-door policy and willingness to engage in thoughtful discussion have provided invaluable guidance and support to countless individuals throughout her distinguished career.

In recognition of her exemplary service, intellectual contributions, and mentorship, we honor Professor Susan Peterson as she enters retirement. Her legacy will continue to resonate within the halls of William & Mary and far beyond. Her colleagues, students, and the countless lives she has touched, both within academia and in the wider community, stand as a testament to a career characterized by excellence, dedication, and a deep-seated commitment to fostering a more informed and just world.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the William & Mary Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Susan M. Peterson, expresses its profound appreciation for her many contributions to William & Mary; and approves, with deep gratitude for her thirty years of service, a change in status from the Wendy and Emery Reves Professor of Government and International Relations to Professor of Government, Emerita.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy of the same be delivered to Professor Susan M. Peterson with best wishes from a grateful Board for her years of dedicated service to William & Mary.