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**Seton Hall University  
School of Diplomacy  
and International Relations**

**Graduate Commencement and  
Hooding Ceremony**

**University Center, Event Room  
May 16, 2025**

# Keynote Speaker

**Ray Walser, Ph.D.**

***Professor of Practice***

***School of Diplomacy Washington, D.C. Program***

Ray Walser is a retired Foreign Service Officer. Since Fall 2019, he has served as a Professor of Practice for the School of Diplomacy and International Relations' Washington Program. Walser entered the Department of State as a political officer in January 1980. Postings abroad were Managua, Bogota, Guadalajara, San Jose and Cape Town. In the Department, he worked in three bureaus — Western Hemisphere, European and African. From 2002-2003, he was special assistant to the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs. Walser's final assignment placed him in charge of Western Hemisphere Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute. He was also detailed to the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, and he served as a visiting professor in the Department of Social Sciences, United States Military Academy.

Upon retirement, Walser joined the Heritage Foundation, a leading Washington, D.C., think tank as a senior policy analyst for Latin America. While at Heritage, Walser testified before both Houses of Congress, published op-eds and other analytic pieces and appeared as an expert on CNN, Fox News, PBS and other media outlets. He also performed contract work on the issue of Violent Extremism in Latin America for the Joint Special Operations University in Tampa, Florida.

Walser grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. He holds his undergraduate degree and a doctorate in European History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Walser is married to Sandra Gutierrez of Nicaragua and has three children and four grandchildren.

# Program

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES** ..... Martin Edwards, Ph.D.  
*Associate Dean and Professor*

**NATIONAL ANTHEM** ..... Tasiah Mayfield, *Student*

**INVOCATION** ..... Reverend Father Brian Muzás, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor and Director of the  
Center for UN and Global Governance Studies*

**WELCOME** ..... Courtney Smith, Ph.D.  
*Dean*

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD  
PRESENTED TO ZACHARIAH ZEISLER  
AND MATTHEW SCHNEIDER** ..... Ann Marie Murphy, Ph.D.  
*Professor and Director of Graduate Studies*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** ..... Ray Walser, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Practice  
School of Diplomacy Washington, D.C. Program*

**CLASS OF 2025 ADDRESS** ..... Steven Ochoa, *Graduate Student*

**CONFERRAL OF DEGREES** ..... Reverend Father Brian Muzás, Ph.D.  
*Board of Regents*  
Courtney Smith, Ph.D.  
*Dean*

**HOODING OF DEGREE CANDIDATES  
FOR THE M.A. IN DIPLOMACY  
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND  
M.S. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS** ..... Robert Case, M.S.  
*Director, Internships and Career Development*

Yanzhong Huang, Ph.D.  
*Professor and Director of the Center for Global Health Studies*

Benjamin Goldfrank, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

Ann Marie Murphy, Ph.D.  
*Professor and Director of the Center for Foreign Policy Studies*

Catherine Ruby, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Dean of Graduate Enrollment Management*

Reverend Father Brian Muzás, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor and Director of the Center  
for UN and Global Governance Studies*

**WELCOME TO THE GRADUATES** ..... Madeleine Hillyer '17/M.A. '18

**ALMA MATER** ..... Tasiah Mayfield, *Student*

**Academic Excellence Award  
Master of Arts**

Zachariah Zeisler

**Academic Excellence Award  
Master of Science**

Matthew Schneider

**Master of Arts in Diplomacy  
and International Relations**

**AUGUST 2024**

Jocelyn Anderson

Syedmohammadreza Mousaviabrehbekouh

Dana M. Scott

**DECEMBER 2024**

Burak Karaoglu

Aurora Michael Kochersperger

Brian Weakliem

**MAY 2025**

Ali Abdulrahman Alsharhan

Jeremy Kramer

Carter Bucken

Anthony Gino Morisi

Juan I. Carreon

Steven Nicolas Ochoa

Elhadj Ousmane Dansoko

Emmanuel Adebayo Ogundele

Micah Hockemeyer

**AUGUST 2025**

Malik K. Browne

Aidan Tuffy

Noradino Connors

Zachariah Zeisler

Taranpreet Kaur

# **Executive Master of Science in International Affairs**

**DECEMBER 2024**

Mahmoud Elkhaiary

**MAY 2025**

Shauntee Tiara Cseh

Matthew Schneider

Garry Talent

Brendan Weintal Whaley

# **Executive Master of Science in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice**

**DECEMBER 2024**

Jerald Brodsky

**MAY 2025**

Rachelle Adisson

Christopher Foran

Jeremy L. Hobbs

Abel Azoupiou Sourou

*Inclusion in this program does not constitute official notice of degree.*

## About the School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Founded in 1997 in alliance with the United Nations Association of the USA, Seton Hall's School of Diplomacy and International Relations is an affiliate member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs. With class offerings just 14 miles from New York City, at the UN, in the heart of Washington, D.C., online and around the globe, the School brings together an international community of students with a faculty of award-winning scholars and veteran field professionals. Through one-on-one advisement across 15 customizable academic programs, hands on application with over 600 internship partners, and dialogue with nearly 40 international leaders and policy makers each year, we are preparing talented, diplomatic professionals to advance global goals across the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

For more information, visit **[diplomacy.shu.edu](https://diplomacy.shu.edu)**.

## About Seton Hall University

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been showing the world what great minds can do since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous academic programs, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*. Seton Hall embraces students of all religions and prepares them to be exemplary servant leaders and global citizens.

The University's beautiful main campus in suburban South Orange, New Jersey is only 14 miles from New York City — offering students a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

For more information, visit **[www.shu.edu](https://www.shu.edu)**.

# Alma Mater

Music by Nicola A. Montani

Revised: Walter Cohnssen, 1978

New choral and brass arrangement:

John Nowik, 2000

Lyrics by Charles A. Byrne ('37)

1. To Al - ma Ma - ter all be - loy - al, keep her  
2. (When on) life's hard stones you - stum - ble pray to

name in pu - rest Light, ne - ver wa - ver from her  
God to be your guide. Think of Se - ton Hall your

pre - cepts guard her ban - ner blue and white.  
mo - ther then forge on in stead - y stride.

Oh, sing her praise to high - est skies and be ye faith - ful

in her eyes for she will fos - ter all your dreams her name is Se - ton

Hall, her name is Se - ton Hall. 1. 2. When on Hall.

