2023 Science Policy Bootcamp

Jan. 10, 11, & 13, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Hybrid Event

PhD Plus and the Science Policy Initiative (SPI) at the University of Virginia (UVA) are hosting a three-part Science Policy Bootcamp during January Term. The event will include a Policy 101 overview, an introduction to the different levels of policy (state to international), the role of non-profits and advocacy groups, a science policy-focused communication workshop, and more. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from professionals who have a wide range of science and technology policy experience. The program is free for graduate students and postdocs from across the Commonwealth.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

8:45 am	Arrive or Connect via Zoom
9:00 am	Welcome & Introduction to Bootcamp
9:10 am	Policy 101 – Daniel Player, Ph.D.	UVA, Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy
10:45 am	*Break (15 mins.)*
11:00 am	Panel: How Science Informs Policy (and vice-versa) at Different Levels of Government
	Moderator: Curtis Davis	SPI at UVA
	Delegate Sally Hudson, Ph.D.	Virginia House of Delegates, Representative of the 57th District *(State)*
	Ellen Bolen, M.E.M.	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation *(State & Federal)*
	Matthew Oreska, Ph.D.	White House, Office of Management & Budget *(Federal)*
	Daniel Reifsnyder, Ph.D.	UVA, Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy *(International)*
12:00 pm	*End of Day 1*

Wednesday, Jan. 11

8:45 am	Arrive or Connect via Zoom
9:00 am	Welcome & Goal of Day 2 – Mark Schwartz	SPI at UVA
9:10 am	Science Policy Communication – Brittany Webster, J.D.	American Geophysical Union
10:30 am	*Break (15 mins.)*
10:45 am	Panel: Role and Importance of Non-profits and Advocacy Groups
	Moderators: Kinsey Tedford, M.S. & Emma Cook	UVA
	Jill Bieri, M.S.	The Nature Conservancy, Volgenau Virginia Coast Reserve
	Anna Killius, J.D.	James River Association
12:00 pm	Networking Lunch (optional)
1:00 pm	*End of Day 2*

Friday, Jan. 13

8:45 am	Arrive or Connect via Zoom
9:00 am	Welcome & Goal of Day 3 – Kelly Oman, Ph.D.	UVA PhD+
9:05 am	Equity & Human Dimensions of Science Policy – Treda Grayson, Ph.D.	U.S. EPA
	Moderator: Sam Lake, Ph.D.	UVA PhD+
9:35 am	Science Policy Communication Workshop – Sam Lake, Ph.D. & Kelly Oman, Ph.D.	UVA PhD+
11:00 am	*Break (15 mins.)*
11:15 am	How to Engage in Science Policy – Curtis Davis & Mark Schwartz	SPI at UVA
11:45 am	*End of Day 3*

Presenters' & Panelists' Bios

(Listed in alphabetical order by last name)

Jill Bieri, M.S.
The Nature Conservancy

Jill Bieri brings more than 30 years of experience in marine science and environmental education to her role as director of the Volgenau Virginia Coast Reserve. Jill joined The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2013 and leads a staff of twelve professionals working to protect, restore and sustain the barrier islands, coastal lagoon, and bayside ecosystems of Virginia's Eastern Shore. TNC has invested in this iconic, flagship landscape for more than 50 years.

VVCR's broad array of programs includes land protection, migratory bird management and research, marine habitat restoration, outreach and education, and coastal resilience. The work being done at VVCR has a global impact and is helping to guide and influence coastal restoration, resilience, and community engagement on a world-wide scale.

It's rewarding for Jill to work in a community whose rural way of life is uniquely connected to the last stretch of coastal wilderness along the East Coast of the United States, providing incredible nature to study, steward, and experience. Jill has a Master of Science degree in Marine Science from the William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Salisbury University.

Ellen Bolen, M.E.M
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Marine and Coastal Conservation

Ellen Bolen joined the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in 2021 as the Director of Ocean and Marine Conservation. Prior to her time at NFWF, she worked for the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. She provided leadership and senior counsel on conservation strategies and initiatives around Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, fisheries management, and coastal resilience efforts. As Deputy Commissioner, she represented Virginia on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, served as the spokesperson, lead all agency communications, and developed and executed key policy initiatives. She has served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (NOAA) and the NOAA Administrator, where she advised and represented the Administrator on a wide range of natural resource issues, including fisheries, climate change, the arctic, and protected species. Before NOAA, she worked for Ocean Conservancy, where she held several positions, including Director of the Fish Conservation Program and Associate Director of Government Relations. Ellen was a legislative Sea Grant Fellow serving in the Office of Congressman Tom Allen of Maine. She holds a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University and a Bachelors of Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Treda Grayson, Ph.D.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Treda Grayson is a Supervisory Biologist in the Office of Water Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters. She leads a team focused on addressing national drinking water emergencies and lead (Pb) in schools and childcare facilities. Her prior experience at EPA includes supporting and carrying out EPA's Trustee responsibilities for restoration in the Gulf of Mexico following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, supporting tribes in developing environmental capacity through the administration of the Indian environmental General Assistance (GAP), leading the National Coastal Condition Assessment, and providing technical support to states, tribes, and other entities to develop and adopt biological, nutrient and aquatic life criteria for water quality standards development.

Treda is an active member of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, serving as Co-Chair of the Broadening Participation Council and Governing Board Member-at-Large. She is the current Program Co-Chair for the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (previously President, Treasurer, and Membership Chair). She is a 2009 Environmental Leadership Program Senior Fellow, a 2015 Prince Georges County 40 Under 40 Honoree in Science and Engineering, and a Director of the Coastal Carolina University (CCU) Alumni Board. Treda holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University, a M.S. degree in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University, and a B.S. degree in Marine Science with Biology and German minors from CCU.

Delegate Sally Hudson, Ph.D.
Virginia House of Delegates, Representative of the 57th District &
UVA, Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy

Delegate Sally Hudson is the first woman to serve Charlottesville in the Virginia House. She studied economics and math at Stanford University and earned her Ph.D. in economics as a National Science Foundation fellow at MIT. As the lone economist in the General Assembly, Sally focuses her legislative work on the financial challenges facing Virginia families, from unemployment and evictions to rising utility bills and health care costs. She's earned recognition as a Legislative Hero with the League of Conservation Voters for her clean energy work and was NARAL Virginia's 2021 Defender of Choice for her work to expand abortion access. Sally also knows that securing all of this progress requires fixing democracy itself. That's why she's an active advocate for essential election reforms. She's led the charge to bring ranked-choice voting to Virginia and helped end the partisan gerrymandering that undermines elections nationwide.

Anna Killius, J.D.
The James River Association

Anna is Director of Advocacy for the James River Association, a conservation organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the James River. She also serves as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Citizens Advisory Committee and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. Selected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2014 as one of ten Sea Grant Knauss fellows to work on Capitol Hill, Anna joined the office of Congressman Carol Shea-Porter of New Hampshire to support her work on the House Natural Resources Committee. She went on to serve as legislative counsel for Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland, advancing his leadership as co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Caucus. In 2020, she was selected as a Next Generation Champion of the Chesapeake by the Chesapeake Conservancy and is a 2021 graduate of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. Anna holds a Juris Doctor degree from William & Mary Law School, where she was a member of the first class of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center.

Matthew Oreska, Ph.D.
White House, Office of Management & Budget

Matthew Oreska is a Senior Policy Analyst at the White House Office of Management and Budget, where he coordinates the Executive Branch review of forthcoming environmental regulations issued pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other statutes. Matthew received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the UVA Environmental Sciences Department in 2018, after completing a dissertation on carbon cycling in seagrass systems. While at UVA, he co-authored the first greenhouse gas accounting methodology for tidal wetlands, which was adopted by the Verified Carbon Standard (now VERRA) in 2015, and contributed to the UVA 2016 Sustainability Plan and 2017 Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Matthew previously worked at the Smithsonian and holds undergraduate degrees in geology and economics from William & Mary and a Master's in biology from Cambridge University.

Daniel Player, Ph.D.
UVA, Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy

Dr. Player received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Washington in 2006. His first professional position was as a Senior Researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, where he worked on several large-scale evaluations and federal education initiatives, including the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse. He has held academic appointments at UVA, first at the School of Education and currently as an Associate Professor in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. His research spans many topics of education policy, including school turnaround, teacher effectiveness, teacher-job fit, principal leadership, working conditions in schools, and parental preferences for early childhood education. He also provides analytical and technical support to evaluations sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Education.

Presenters' & Panelists' Bios
(Listed in alphabetical order by last name)

Daniel Reifsnyder, Ph.D.
UVA, Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy

Dan Reifsnyder is an adjunct professor at UVA's Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, where he teaches courses in Climate Politics and Multilateral Environmental Negotiation. He spent over 40 years in Federal Service, most recently at the Department of State, where he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment. In 2015, he co-chaired the U.N. negotiations that led to the Paris Agreement on climate change. He began working on the climate issue in 1989 and played a key role in the negotiations that led to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992 and its Kyoto Protocol in 1997. For many years he worked on issues involving the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

While at State, Dan served as Deputy Director of the Office of Cooperative Science and Technology Programs, coordinating work on 25 government-to-government science and technology agreements and over 600 agency-to-agency memoranda of understanding. Earlier, he worked in the Office of Marine Conservation. Before his work at State, he served for ten years at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce.

He has a Ph.D. in international relations at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a law degree from George Washington University, and a master's degree in Russian Area Studies from Georgetown University. He did his undergraduate degree at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, and studied in Leningrad and Paris.

Brittany Webster, J.D.
American Geophysical Union

A Georgia native, Brittany Webster, received her B.A. in Comparative Literature and International Affairs from The University of Georgia in 2009 and her Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law in 2012. She began her career in policy as a legislative fellow for a member of the House of Representatives in 2013. Following her time on Capitol Hill, Ms. Webster worked for a lobbying firm dedicated to working with nonprofits and then worked on a Senatorial campaign. Ms. Webster began working at the American Geophysical Union in 2015 as a Senior Specialist, dividing her energy between advocating for science on Capitol Hill and helping scientists effectively communicate and engage with their legislators. In her current role, Ms. Webster sets and leads AGU's policy strategy, manages the legislative team, and leads AGU's Local Science Partners Program.