**Duke Team Wins National Cyber Policy Competition**

By Marc Losito and Kim Kotlar

“Our country is at risk, not only from a catastrophic cyberattack but from millions of daily intrusions disrupting everything from financial transactions to the inner workings of our electoral system. Capturing the complexity of this challenge is hard…The reality is that we are dangerously insecure in cyber. Your entire life—your paycheck, your health care, your electricity—increasingly relies on networks of digital devices that store, process, and analyze data,” according to the nationally chartered [Cyberspace Solarium Commission - Report](https://www.solarium.gov/report).

Duke students and Duke University are tackling this global challenge head-on. Recently, four Sanford School of Public Policy students, dubbed the *Arrows of Artemis*, came together to win a major national cyber policy competition. Gia DeHart, Jon Liu, Marc Losito, and Zach Sanna, also members of *Duke Cyber (*<https://ags.duke.edu/engage/cyber-team/>)won the Atlantic Council’s [Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge](https://go.atlanticcouncil.org/e/219312/atecraft-initiative-cyber-912-/jh98fk/1143997684?h=kUsax4RNo3jJ9I31sqrGbuCsASIgK39vvkcfMd3Q7m8) on January 8, 2021. Each member is also affiliated with the Sanford School’s newest policy concentration—technology policy, which overlaps with cyber and crosscuts the public policy landscape in a globalizing and ever-expanding digital world.

Losito and DeHart came from extensive military backgrounds, sharpened by national security and foreign policy experience. Liu hailed from the Peace Corps with in-depth knowledge of international development and economics. Sanna, previously with Teach for America, brought a wealth of domestic policy and legal knowledge.

According to the Duke Team, they leaned heavily toward deliberate and offensive cyber actions, but not at the cost of understanding the threat, political and international capital, or American lives. “It’s not a competition you can win without committing days, weeks, and months of time in preparation and rehearsal,” said one member.

***“The competition rewards teamwork, written and oral skills, and a wide range of policy knowledge. These are the intangibles we are going to need as policy makers in the future.” - Marc Losito, MPP’22***

***“My favorite thing about our team is that we all have a growth mindset. We are happy to accept and incorporate feedback.” - Zach Sanna, MPP’22***

***“Cyber continues to be a cross-cutting discipline with broad national security implications. I’m so pleased that Duke University is adding technical and policy courses to engage students and that Sanford, Pratt, and Duke’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) leaders continue to support Duke Cyber – a student led organization with nearly 500 students.” - Kim Kotlar, Duke Cyber Mentor and Coach***

Seeing the Arrows of Artemis, Duke University named first place in a national policy competition has been the highlight of our graduate school experiences, thus far. Bragging rights, cash prizes, and a starter cyber library are all icing-on-the-cake in representing Duke, Sanford, and our coach in a job well done. Hopefully the Arrows of Artemis’s story can inspire fellow graduate and undergraduate students to compete in enriching experiences, like this one, to sharpen our policy skills for the task that lies beyond Duke. Read the Cyber Blog to learn more about their competition experience: <https://ags.duke.edu/2021/01/15/duke-team-wins-national-cyber-policy-competition/>.

## MORE ABOUT DUKE LEADERHIP IN CYBER EDUCATION

## In 2019, Sanford School of Public Policy offered Duke’s first course in Cybersecurity Policy and has built on that by enriching student academic experiences by hosting talks by nationally recognized cyber speakers and hosting the first Duke Cyber Cup policy competition in 2020.

## In Fall 2021, Pratt School of Engineering will begin [Duke Cybersecurity Master of Engineering](https://cybersecurity.meng.duke.edu/) curriculum.

## Duke’s Office of Information Technology [Duke University OIT](http://oit.duke.edu/)

## continues to build knowledge and support the Duke Community by offering hands on cyber and technical programs and mentoring Duke Cyber technical track students prepare for their competitions.

**JOIN DUKE CYBER**: <https://ags.duke.edu/engage/cyber-team/>

*Marc Losito is a first-year MPP candidate at Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy and an active duty U.S. Army Warrant Officer, focusing on the intersection of technology and national security. The views expressed in the article are his alone and do not represent Duke University, the Sanford School of Public Policy, nor the U.S. Army.*

*Kim Kotlar is a retired Cryptologic Naval Officer, retired National Security Agency Executive, and former Senior Congressional Staff Member. She participated in the development of Sanford’s first Cybersecurity Policy Course and has mentored the student-led Duke Cyber organization since its inception three years ago.*