

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award – 2012

Dr. Bradley H. Roberts '72



One of the United State's foremost experts on defense policy, you are the current Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense under the Obama Administration.

You arrived on the Mesa as a new sophomore in the fall of 1969 and embarked on one of the most transformative journeys the School has ever known in a student. While at Cate, you pursued both academic and non-academic interests, exhibiting a wide-range of intellectual capabilities. You honed your writing and language skills that would enable you to excel in your later career. Your teachers admired your ability to write simply, directly and effectively, mirroring the qualities that characterize your personality. Amongst many accomplishments, you coached intramural soccer, participated in the drama club and excelled in studio art. In the McBean Library, you absorbed the national newspapers that brought news of foreign wars, domestic turmoil, and milestone events such as the moon landing. This daily reflection inspired your interest in national and international security issues.

At the beginning of your senior year, you were elected Senior Prefect, prompting your advisor Paul M. Denison Sr. '57 to write, "This is an excellent Senior Class, and Brad is the individual *they* elected to be their leader." During the course of the year, you and your peers attained your goal of being just, relevant, introspective and upright.

By the end of your Cate career, you earned membership to the Cum Laude Society and received Cate's highest honor, the Biddle Cup. During your commencement ceremony, headmaster Frederick Clark described you in this way: "Brad is mature beyond his years. He is idealistic but understanding; he keeps his equilibrium under pressure, and effectively handles problems in ways that normally one expects from a man twice his age. He rarely makes a mistake, and never repeats one; he learns from experience. Brad is certain to be the kind of citizen we admire and respect."

From Cate, you attended Stanford University, and with high acclamations from headmaster Scott McLeod, you were accepted as a program assistant in the Overseas Studies Office at Stanford. So began a life abroad.

In 1986, after graduate work at the London School of Economics and Political Science, as well as a doctorate from Erasmus University in Rotterdam, you established a career in the foreign and defense policy field. You initially worked for a year at the research service of the Library of Congress and then joined a Georgetown University research institute, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, as a research fellow.

From 1986 to 1996, you were the editor of *The Washington Quarterly* and a research fellow Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). During this period in your professional life, you visited many interesting places undergoing radical changes: in 1990 you were in Moscow running a conference on political transitions with 30 members of the democratic movement. You travelled to Germany just two weeks after unification, lectured in India, and toured Northern Ireland, examining aspects of the Catholic-Protestant conflict. The Gulf War consumed a great deal of your time and energy as you were one of the experts called by the House Armed Services Committee to provide recommendations on the war vs. embargo decision. Your compelling arguments appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*. Additional publications during your career include articles in *Foreign Affairs*, *International Security*, and other leading journals. Your early focus, aside from editing the one of leading journal in its field, was on democratization abroad and lecturing and writing on chemical weapons issues.

From 1995 until 2008, you served as a member of the research staff at the Institute for Defense Analyses. You also served from 2003 to 2009 as a member of the Threat Advisory Committee for the Department of Defense and as chair of its panel on implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction. Additionally, you served as special advisor to the Strategic Advisory Group, as vice chairman of the board of the US Committee of the Council of the Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute, and as member and founding chairman of the Threat Reduction Program Review Committee of Los Alamos National Laboratories. You have also been an associate professorial lecturer at George Washington University.

In 2008, you were assigned your current leadership role as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense under the Obama Administration. In this position, you have been responsible for providing policy advice and support to the Secretary of Defense by formulating, recommending, integrating, and implementing policies and strategies to improve United States strategic and conventional strike capabilities, defenses, arms control and related matters.

Despite your demanding career in international affairs and public policy, you have always found time to support Cate. You were a member of the newly formed Alumni Council in 1983. During your tenure as executive editor of the *Washington Quarterly*, you sent copies of each issue to the Cate library. You have served as class agent, reunion chair, and have hosted numerous Cate receptions in Washington DC. You've contributed articles to the Cate Annual Report, and participated with students in Cate's International Studies program.

For your outstanding commitment to public service; for your role in the defense of our nation; and for your devoted commitment to this institution, we honor you, Dr. Bradley H. Roberts '72, with Cate's Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2012.