

SPENCER MICHAELS

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EDUCATION

Amherst College

Class of 2024

B.A.: Russian & LJST (Law, Jurisprudence, & Social Thought), *magna cum laude* (3.9 GPA)

Awards & Honors: The Mikhail Schweitzer Memorial Book Award; Finalist, Amherst College's Speaking Competition 2023, 2024; The Bancroft Prize.

EXPERIENCE

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. National Security and Technology Intern

2024 — Present

Center for a New American Security | Washington, D.C.

- Conducted policy research on U.S. technological competitiveness, focusing on AI governance frameworks, quantum computing infrastructure, and emerging biotechnology regulations for national security applications
- Facilitated stakeholder engagement between senior defense officials, technology industry leaders, and research partners to inform policy recommendations on frontier technology development
- Produced analytical briefs and contributed to policy papers examining the intersection of emerging technologies and national security, with emphasis on maintaining U.S. technological leadership

Defense Content Writer

2025 — Present

Obviant | Alexandria, VA

- Develop data-driven content analyzing defense acquisition trends and program office innovations, reaching an audience of government contractors and defense technology companies
- Collaborate with data analytics team to transform program office and budget data into compelling narrative content for the defense technology community

Program Associate

2024

HFX | Washington, D.C.

- Managed communications and logistics for the 2024 Halifax International Security Forum, coordinating with over 300 high-level participants including ministers, military officials, and thought leaders from 70+ countries.
- Processed and analyzed registration data using Swoogo event management software to track participant information, speaking roles, and financial/travel assistance requests.
- Coordinated onsite logistics in Halifax during the Forum to ensure smooth execution of the conference.

Thesis

2023 — 2024

Amherst College LJST Department | Amherst, MA

- Analyzed the alignment and regulatory challenges posed by artificial intelligence and corporations through the lens of Thomas Hobbes' political philosophy, drawing parallels between AI, corporate personhood, and Hobbes' conception of the "artificial person" of the state.
- Applied experience in open-source investigation, international law, and academic research to an ambitious thesis topic.

Research Assistant

Summer 2023

Hamilton Commission at Hudson Institute | Washington, DC

- Assisted former Deputy National Security Advisor and Senior Scholar to build policy recommendations in critical economic sectors for national security and defense innovation.
- Focused on U.S. – China competition in natural gas, artificial intelligence, and critical next-generation weaponry.

Board Member

2023 — 2024

Artificial Intelligence in the Liberal Arts Initiative | Amherst, MA

- The student leader of an initiative promoting discussion, awareness, and engagement in the role of AI in liberal arts education. Advised faculty members on campus-wide guidelines, regulations, and approaches to AI in the classroom.

Research Assistant

2021 — 2024

Amherst College Russian Center | Amherst, MA

- Supported research staff by serving as an archivist and translator, maintaining and cataloging historically significant works. Organized and managed events such as lectures, colloquia, and gallery tours attended by the public and student body.

Schupf Fellow

Summer 2022

Amherst College Schupf Fellowship Program | Amherst, MA

- Independently researched and produced weekly reports on topics in international relations and politics; warfare development; and international humanitarian law. Located primary sources both online and in archives to support arguments and analyses.

Editorial Assistant & Staff Writer

Summer 2021

The Moscow Times | Moscow, Russia

- Provided editorial assistance, designed newsletters, edited podcasts, and wrote articles. Monitored breaking news of incidents, events, and topics of interest to quickly create engaging content for an international audience.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Technical Skills: Full Adobe Suite; Python, C#, R, Go, HTML/CSS; GIS Software and Analysis; advanced academic research techniques; Microsoft Suite; LLM and AI image generation and detection; prompt engineering

Languages: English, Russian